



## > INTRODUCTION

For more than 25 years, the Public School Forum of North Carolina has isolated local spending from state and federal spending to examine the capacity and actual effort of counties to support public schools. The annual Local School Finance Study focuses not only on the amount that counties spend on schools, but also on each county's investment in the context of that county's taxable resources.

From the early years of the Study, two trends have become evident that have deepened over time. First, wealthier counties are able to spend more on schools while simultaneously making less taxing effort. Because wealthier counties have more taxable resources, they can keep taxes low while still generating significant revenues. Conversely, counties with fewer

taxable resources need to make greater taxing effort to support their schools. Second, there is a widening gap between counties with many taxable resources and those with few—and as a result, a widening gap in counties' school spending patterns.

State policy decisions made during the last 25 years have blunted the impact of these trends, narrowing the educational investment gap by providing additional funds for the state's smallest and lowest-wealth counties. However, even with these important, positive policy steps, investments in North Carolina schools still vary dramatically by zip code. As a result, young people born into one of the state's economically thriving counties will have levels of investment in their education not shared elsewhere in the state.

These funding disparities have tangible impacts in classrooms. Local salary supplements for educators are generally larger in high-wealth districts, which better positions them to attract and retain top talent. In low-wealth districts that have fewer resources, class offerings often lack the diversity of those found in wealthier ones. And basic classroom supplies such as paper, pencils and textbooks are difficult to come by in low-wealth districts, while their wealthier counterparts are able to tap deeper wallets as they cope with decreased state-level investments.

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## > INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED)

### A GROWING DIVIDE

Under North Carolina's school finance system, born more than eight decades ago, it is the state's responsibility to pay for instructional expenses (including personnel) while county governments pay for capital expenses (buildings and maintenance).

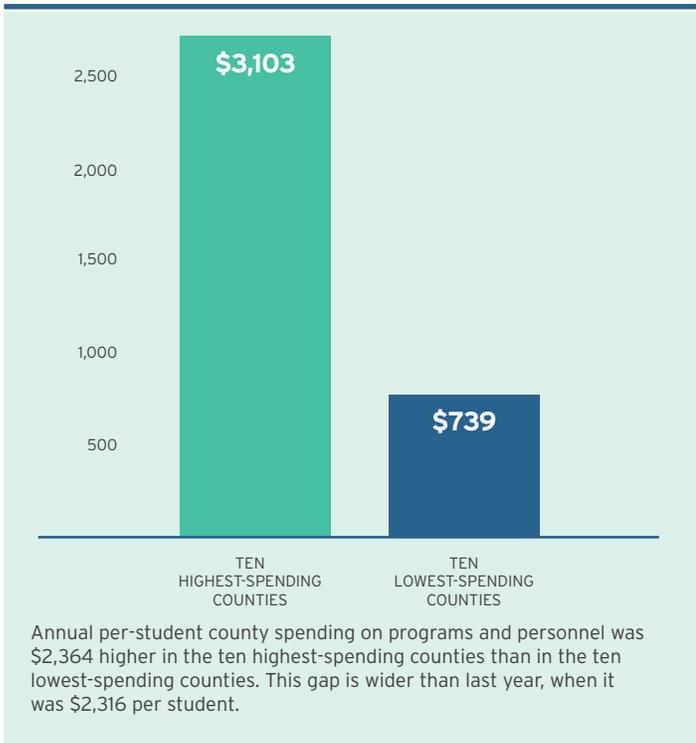
During the Great Depression, through the 1933 School Machinery Act, the General Assembly attempted to "relieve" counties of the responsibility for operating and maintaining public schools. In 1975, the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act reinforced the primacy of state support, setting forth the state's policy of using state revenue sources for instructional expenses and current operations while expecting county governments to meet public schools' facilities requirements.

Over time, however, the lines drawn in the 1933 and 1975 laws have become blurred, and the local role in funding school operations has increased. In 2015-16, counties spent \$3.1 billion to fund instructional expenses, accounting for 26 percent of the combined federal, state, and local total. Counties provided funding for 865 principals and assistant principals (16.3 percent of the total), 5,752 teachers (6.1 percent of the total),

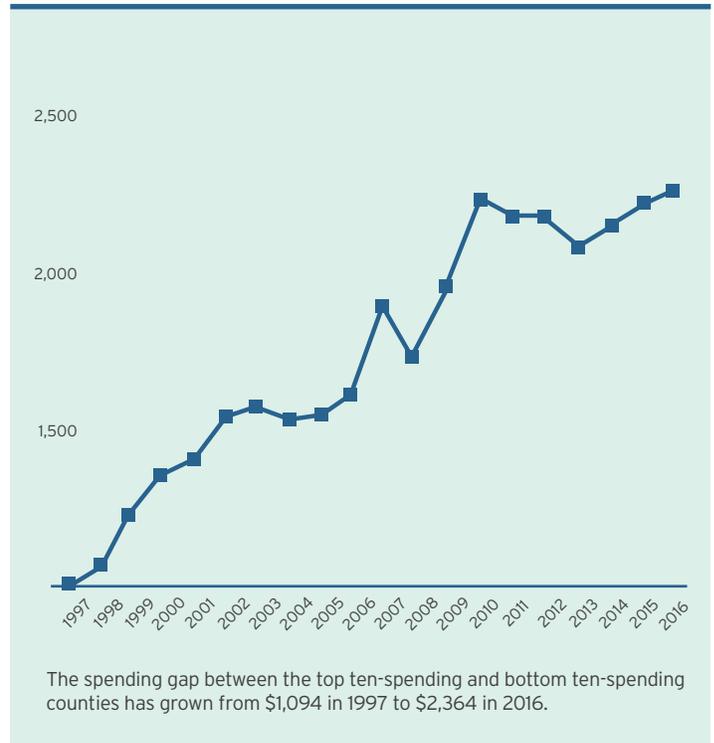
2,299 teacher assistants (10.9 percent of the total), and 3,238 professional instructional support personnel (21.2 percent of the total).

As a result, inequities between low-wealth and higher-wealth counties have grown—and they persist today. In 2015-16, the state's ten counties that spent the most per student averaged \$3,103 per student as compared with the ten that spent the least, which averaged \$739 per student. That represents a gap of \$2,364—and 60 counties are below the state average of \$1,596. Orange County, the highest-spending county in North Carolina, spends more than twelve times per student the amount that Swain County spends, which ranks at the bottom of the list. This large gap exists primarily because of the variation in property wealth across the state, and this gap has widened by over \$1 million since the North Carolina Supreme Court's *Leandro* decision in 1997, which determined that it is incumbent upon the state to fulfill the constitutional obligation to guard and maintain the right of every North Carolina child to receive a "sound basic education."

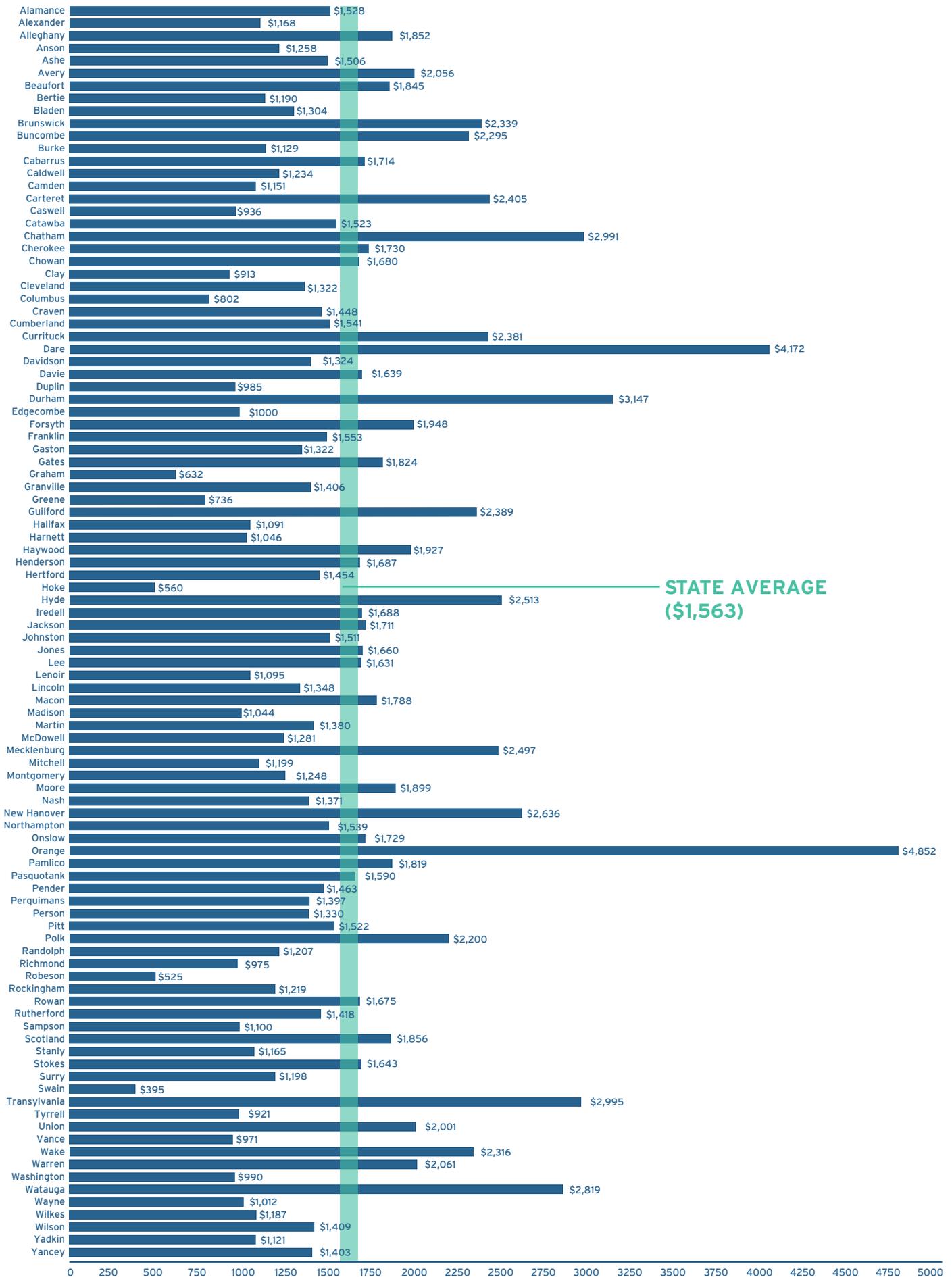
### COUNTY-LEVEL SPENDING PER STUDENT



### WIDENING SPENDING GAP



# 2015-16 TOTAL LOCAL CURRENT SPENDING PER STUDENT



**STATE AVERAGE  
(\$1,563)**

## > WHAT'S NEW IN THE 2018 LOCAL SCHOOL FINANCE STUDY?

Long-time readers of the annual Local School Finance Study noticed a new look beginning with the 2014 study, which continues this year. "Under the hood," however, the study is largely the same as in 2013 and previous years, with a few notable exceptions.

Most significantly, since 2014, the study has included charter school enrollment in each county's total Average Daily Membership (ADM). Charter schools receive funding based on their ADM, just as district schools do. The change reflects that each county's funding for instructional expenses is divided approximately equally among all district and charter school students residing in the county.

When the new calculation including charter enrollment was first introduced into the Local School Finance Study in 2014, there was little change to the study data. Most counties saw little change in their rankings, while some counties with the largest percentages of students attending charter schools did see more substantial shifts. In this year's study, more counties have seen larger changes in their rankings as charter enrollment has increased across the state. Counties like Orange and Hyde that have traditionally ranked highest in the tables continue to do so, and counties like Swain and Robeson continue to rank lower. Most other counties, however, have seen larger changes in their rankings on tables reflecting Actual Effort (Tables 2 and 3) as charter enrollments have increased across the state. Rankings of property value (Table 1) and Ability to Pay (Table 4) have remained more static.

Also new since 2014, the state average per capita income used in Table 4 is the statewide average from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Aside from this and the inclusion of charter school enrollments, the study's methodology is unchanged. The five main data tables included in past years' studies appear again in this year's study as appendices. The tables appear in the same order as in past years, to facilitate comparison with previous studies. The capital outlay and debt service averages, which appeared in Tables 2 and 5 prior to the 2014 study, and did not factor into the rankings, now appear as a separate Table 2A, with counties ranked to mirror the order in Table 2 to facilitate comparison with previous studies. Also since 2014, several redundant table columns have been omitted and others reordered to facilitate readability.

Finally, the 2014 Local School Finance Study pioneered a new summary table, which we include again this year: Local School Finance Study Rankings-at-a-Glance, which collects the rankings from Tables 1-5 in a single table, ordered by the Table 5 Relative Effort rank. The table is accompanied by a brief explanation of the rankings, which also serves as an introduction to the more detailed tables included in the appendices.

The rankings in these five columns are calculated in the five tables included in the appendices to this report.

**Property Value Rank:** The first column shows county rankings based on the real estate wealth available in each county. Most local funding for schools comes from property taxes. Counties ranked higher on this measure have more property available for potential taxation to support education. (See Table 1)

**Actual Effort Rank:** Rankings in the second column reflect the actual dollar effort of counties to fund schools, without taking into account property wealth. Counties that spend the most per student rank highest on this measure. (See Table 2)

**Actual Effort Rank II:** The rankings in the third column serve the same purpose as the second column but take into account supplemental state funding provided for low-wealth and small counties. Counties that spend the most per student based on county spending combined with low-wealth and small county supplemental state funding rank highest on this measure. This column can be analyzed alongside the second column to show the impact of supplemental funding on counties' relative rankings. (See Table 3)

**Ability to Pay Rank:** The fourth column's rankings reflect an analysis of each county's fiscal capacity to support public schools, taking into account property values (from the first column, adjusted using the state's average effective property tax rate) and non-property tax revenues. Large, urban counties that combine high adjusted property valuations with broad-based economic activity and high per capita incomes tend to receive high rankings on this measure. (See Table 4)

**Relative Effort Rank:** The final column compares Actual Effort (from Table 2) and Ability to Pay (from Table 4). Low-wealth counties with comparatively high spending levels tend to rank highest in this measure. (See Table 5)



# LOCAL SCHOOL FINANCE STUDY RANKINGS-AT-A-GLANCE

	FROM TABLE 1	FROM TABLE 2	FROM TABLE 3	FROM TABLE 4	FROM TABLE 5	
COUNTY	PROPERTY VALUE RANK: Adjusted Property Tax Base Per ADM	ACTUAL EFFORT RANK: Total Current Spending Per ADM	ACTUAL EFFORT RANK II: Total Current Spending Per ADM with Low Wealth and Small County Funding	ABILITY TO PAY RANK: Revenue Per ADM	RELATIVE EFFORT RANK: Current Spending as Percentage of Revenue per Student	
TOP QUARTILE	Dare	1	2	3	1	95
	Jackson	2	32	58	4	98
	Watauga	3	6	13	3	86
	Avery	4	18	14	9	93
	Hyde	5	8	1	8	85
	Macon	6	28	53	7	96
	Brunswick	7	13	25	5	92
	Carteret	8	10	22	2	94
	Transylvania	9	4	9	10	63
	Currituck	10	12	24	6	90
SECOND QUARTILE	Ashe	11	49	38	23	87
	Alleghany	12	24	11	21	74
	Polk	13	16	12	15	81
	Clay	14	94	35	28	97
	New Hanover	15	7	16	11	72
	Yancey	16	56	34	27	88
	Pamlico	17	27	8	20	84
	Perquimans	18	57	26	22	91
	Buncombe	19	15	30	16	77
	Chatham	20	5	10	12	58
THIRD QUARTILE	Warren	21	17	15	31	28
	Haywood	22	21	42	25	65
	Graham	23	97	32	36	99
	Madison	24	85	56	39	89
	Henderson	25	34	62	24	80
	Mitchell	26	72	37	45	75
	Moore	27	22	46	19	83
	Cherokee	28	29	51	41	38
	Northampton	29	44	18	54	31
	Orange	30	1	2	13	3
FOURTH QUARTILE	Durham	31	3	7	17	34
	Mecklenburg	32	9	19	14	71
	Jones	33	37	5	40	47
	Wake	34	14	28	18	66
	Swain	35	100	98	43	100
	Person	36	61	90	42	67
	Iredell	37	33	61	26	79
	Beaufort	38	25	43	35	41
	Pender	39	51	70	50	51
	Montgomery	40	68	80	46	70
FOURTH QUARTILE	Tyrrell	41	93	4	62	82
	Lincoln	42	60	96	38	73
	Chowan	43	35	17	47	26
	Rutherford	44	53	59	59	27
	Davie	45	39	64	33	64
	Catawba	46	46	81	32	69
	Craven	47	52	83	34	68
	Guilford	48	11	23	29	11
	Stokes	49	38	40	67	8
	Camden	50	78	31	49	78
FOURTH QUARTILE	Rowan	51	36	45	53	19
	McDowell	52	66	71	69	30
	Forsyth	53	20	41	30	43
	Wilkes	54	75	84	61	57
	Washington	55	88	29	81	56
	Davidson	56	62	85	56	50
	Bladen	57	65	66	76	20
	Caldwell	58	69	69	73	32
	Caswell	59	92	65	88	60
	Cabarrus	60	31	57	44	33
FOURTH QUARTILE	Union	61	19	36	48	9
	Rockingham	62	70	74	66	52
	Stanly	63	77	78	60	61
	Yadkin	64	80	86	72	53
	Alexander	65	76	93	79	36
	Onslow	66	30	55	37	49
	Bertie	67	74	27	86	21
	Martin	68	58	39	70	17
	Lee	69	40	48	55	15
	Alamance	70	45	63	52	37
FOURTH QUARTILE	Burke	71	79	87	78	45
	Pasquotank	72	41	47	57	14
	Cleveland	73	64	72	77	16
	Franklin	74	42	44	84	4
	Pitt	75	47	54	51	40
	Anson	76	67	33	80	22
	Gates	77	26	6	87	2
	Hertford	78	50	20	82	6
	Wilson	79	54	68	63	24
	Surry	80	73	77	58	59
FOURTH QUARTILE	Randolph	81	71	73	74	35
	Gaston	82	63	92	68	25
	Halifax	83	83	94	83	39
	Edgecombe	84	87	88	90	48
	Lenoir	85	82	89	71	55
	Granville	86	55	49	89	7
	Cumberland	87	43	75	64	13
	Nash	88	59	60	65	29
	Johnston	89	48	50	85	5
	Duplin	90	89	82	91	42
FOURTH QUARTILE	Wayne	91	86	95	75	62
	Richmond	92	90	76	92	44
	Columbus	93	95	97	94	54
	Hoke	94	98	100	98	76
	Harnett	95	84	79	96	10
	Sampson	96	81	67	93	12
	Scotland	97	23	21	97	1
	Greene	98	96	52	99	23
	Vance	99	91	91	95	18
	Robeson	100	99	99	100	46

## > STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING IN NORTH CAROLINA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

North Carolina's first state constitution in 1776 included an education provision that stated, "A School or Schools shall be established by the Legislature for the convenient Instruction of Youth." The legislature provided no financial support for schools.

A century later, the constitution adopted after the Civil War required the state to provide funding for all children ages 6-21 to attend school tuition-free. In 1901, the General Assembly appropriated \$100,000 for public schools, marking the first time there was a direct appropriation of tax revenue for public schools. Today, the constitution mandates that the state provide a "general and uniform system of free public schools" and that the state legislature may assign counties "such responsibility for the financial support of the free public schools as it may deem appropriate." N.C. Const. art. IX, § 2 (see note, "Sources of Local School Finance Law: The North Carolina State Constitution").

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### SOURCES OF LOCAL SCHOOL FINANCE LAW: THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONSTITUTION

Article IX, Sec. 2. Uniform system of schools.

**(1) General and uniform system: term.** The General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools, which shall be maintained at least nine months in every year, and wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students. **(2) Local responsibility.** The General Assembly may assign to units of local government such responsibility for the financial support of the free public schools as it may deem appropriate. The governing boards of units of local government with financial responsibility for public education may use local revenues to add to or supplement any public school or post-secondary school program.

Apart from the constitutional provisions, a major change in the school funding structure occurred during the Great Depression. Under the School Machinery Act (enacted in 1931 and amended in 1933), the state assumed responsibility for all current expenses necessary to maintain a minimum eight-month school term and an educational program of basic content and quality (instructional and program expenses). In exchange for the state's expanded role, local governments assumed responsibility for school construction and maintenance (capital expenses). The School Machinery Act established counties as the basic unit for operating public schools, which is maintained today with large county-wide school systems, except in the 11 counties that also have city school systems.

In 1975, the General Assembly enacted the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, which delineated responsibility for school funding:

**To ensure a quality education for every child in North Carolina, and to assure that the necessary resources are provided, it is the policy of the State of North Carolina to provide from State revenue sources the instructional expenses for current operations of the public school system as defined in the standard course of study. It is the policy of the State of North Carolina that the facilities requirements for a public education system will be met by county governments.**

Over time the delineations proscribed by the School Machinery Acts and the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act have given way to increased local investment in instructional expenses. Even so, the North Carolina Supreme Court has made clear that it is *the state* that bears responsibility for fulfilling the constitutional obligation to guard and maintain the right of every North Carolina child to receive a "sound basic education." *Leandro v. North Carolina*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997).

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North Carolina has been engaged in litigation defending its system of school finance for almost twenty years. The legal action was instigated in part by spending inequities between low-wealth and higher-wealth counties—inequities that persist today.



## SOURCES OF LOCAL SCHOOL FINANCE LAW: THE LEANDRO CASE

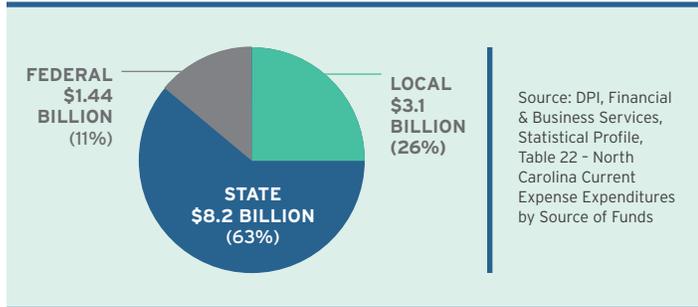
"Because the North Carolina Constitution expressly states that units of local governments with financial responsibility for public education may provide additional funding to supplement the educational programs provided by the state, there can be nothing unconstitutional about their doing so or in any inequality of opportunity occurring as a result... Clearly then, a county with greater financial resources will be able to supplement its programs to a greater degree than less wealthy counties, resulting in enhanced educational opportunity for its students."

*Leandro v. State*, 488 S.E.2d 249 (N.C. 1997).

## > SCHOOL FUNDING: WHO PAYS FOR WHAT?

North Carolina public schools spent \$12.7 billion on instructional expenses in the 2015-16 school year, using a combination of state, federal, and local resources. State funding accounted for 63 percent of expenditures, federal funding accounted for 11 percent, and local funding accounted for 26 percent of spending.

### SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS IN NC, 2015-16



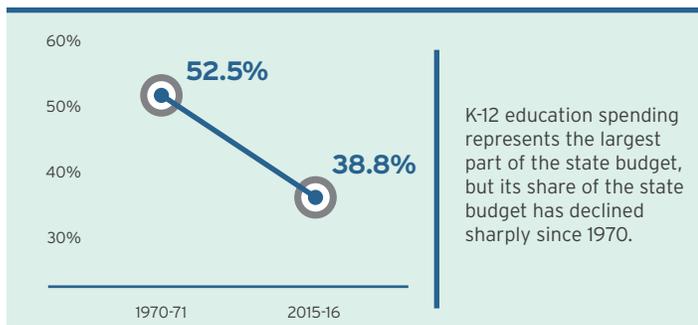
### STATE FUNDS

In 2015-16, the state provided \$8.2 billion to operate 2,592 district, charter, and regional schools in 115 school systems across 100 counties for 1.54 million students. Approximately 94 percent of state funds were spent on salaries and benefits for 139,235 state-funded school personnel.

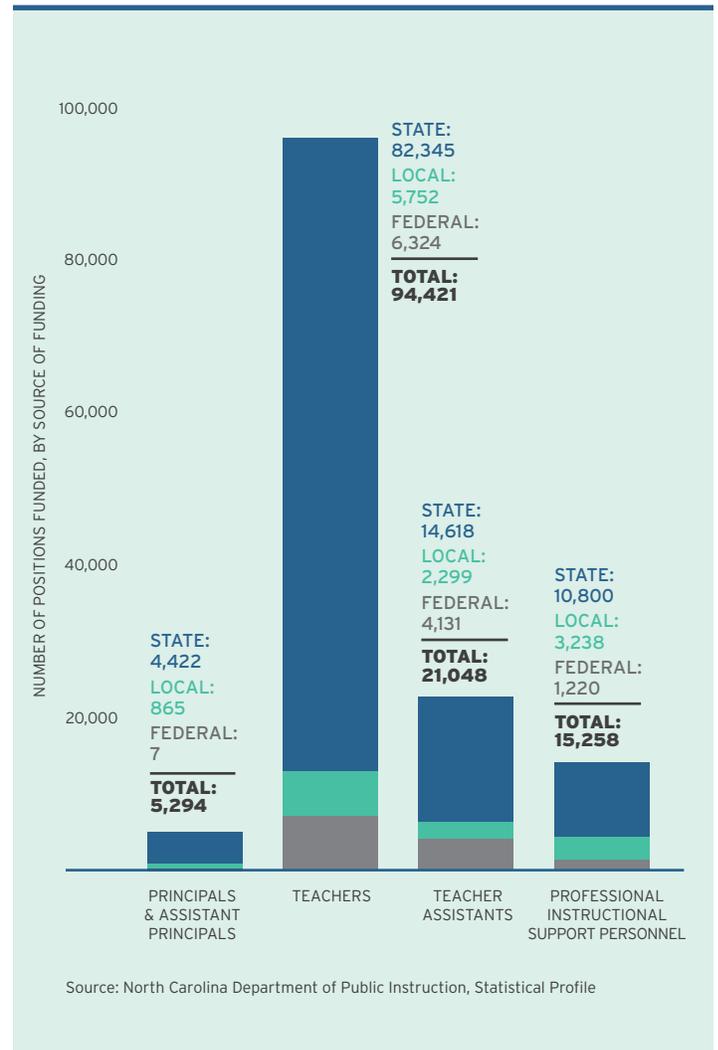
State funding for operations has increased from \$3.44 billion in 1992-93 to \$8.2 billion in 2015-16. But while the level of funding has increased over time, the percentage of the state's General Fund dedicated to education has declined. In 2015-16, 38.8 percent of the state's General Fund was appropriated for K-12 public education, a significant drop from 1970, when it was 52.5 percent. If public education were funded at the same percentage of the General Fund as in 1970, districts and schools would have an additional \$3.05 billion to educate our students.

State funding for capital outlays has been relatively small compared with the state's investment in operations, and compared with what counties invest in facilities. In 2015-16, the state spent \$16 million on capital outlays, compared to \$772 million spent by counties.

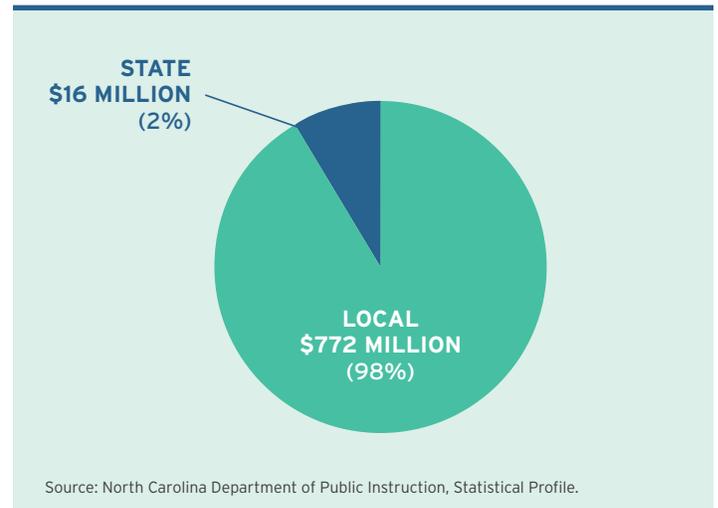
### K-12 SPENDING (% OF GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET)



### WHO PAYS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL? 2015-16



### FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS, 2015-16



## LOCAL FUNDS

The nearly century-old division of state and local responsibility for school funding still shapes the way North Carolina pays for public education today, with 63 percent of instructional expenditures coming from the state and 98 percent of capital expenses paid at the local level. However, the division has eroded somewhat, with counties funding 16.3 percent of principal and assistant principal positions, 6.1 percent of teachers, 10.9 percent of teacher assistants, and 21.2 percent of professional instructional support personnel; and with the state paying 2 percent of capital expenses.

Considering local expenditures on programs and personnel in 2015-16, the ten counties that spent the most per student averaged \$3,103 per student compared to the ten that spent the least, which averaged \$739 per student. That represents a gap of \$2,364 – and 60 counties are below the state average of \$1,596. The bottom seven counties combined spend \$290 less than Orange County spends on its own.

One of the primary challenges from the five low-wealth plaintiffs in the Leandro case dealt with the inequities between varying levels of county support for schools. However, the state Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that “the ‘equal opportunities’ clause of Article IX, Section 2(1) of the North Carolina Constitution does not require substantially equal funding or educational advantages in all school districts. Consequently, the provisions of the current state system for funding schools which require or allow counties to help finance their school systems and result in unequal funding among the school districts of the state do not violate constitutional principles.”



## LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING: IMPACTS ON SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS

Differences in counties' levels of investment in their school systems translate into dramatically different options at the school and classroom level. As an illustration, at a statewide average class size of 20 students per classroom, the ten counties that spend the most per student would spend, on average, \$62,054 per classroom. By contrast, the ten counties that spend the least per child would spend, on average, \$14,778 per classroom – a difference of \$47,276 per classroom. At the state's average elementary school size of 490 students, that translates to a difference of \$1,158,271 per elementary school. At the state's average high school size of 848, it translates to a difference of \$2,004,518 per high school.

## FEDERAL FUNDS

Resources from the federal government accounted for 11 percent of North Carolina public education spending on instructional expenses in 2015-16, and totaled \$1,440,865,436. Federal resources are given to states in the form of direct grants, state applications, state plans, or a combination of the three.



## > LOCAL SCHOOL FINANCE STUDY 2018: GAPS AND TRENDS

The primary source of revenue for county government is local property taxes, and this year the study once again revealed wide variation between the property values of the state's wealthiest and poorest counties, and resulting disparities in revenues generated.

### POOREST COUNTIES TAXED THEMSELVES AT HIGHER RATES, STILL GENERATED SUBSTANTIALLY LESS FROM PROPERTY TAX

Coastal and mountain counties have the highest real estate wealth capacity in the state. In 2015-16, every county in the top ten had a per student real estate wealth capacity above \$1.5 million, and together had an average five times greater than the bottom ten counties. The ten wealthiest counties had an average real estate capacity of \$1,886,230 per student, compared with the ten poorest counties, which had, on average, a real estate capacity of \$363,638 per student. This gap of \$1.52 million is similar to last year's gap. The gap has decreased

somewhat in the past several years, from a \$1.69 million gap in 2012-13, after many years of steady increase. Major factors that contributed to the narrowing gap included reductions in real estate wealth in the wealthiest counties, some counties' 2011 revaluations, and increases in student enrollment in several counties.

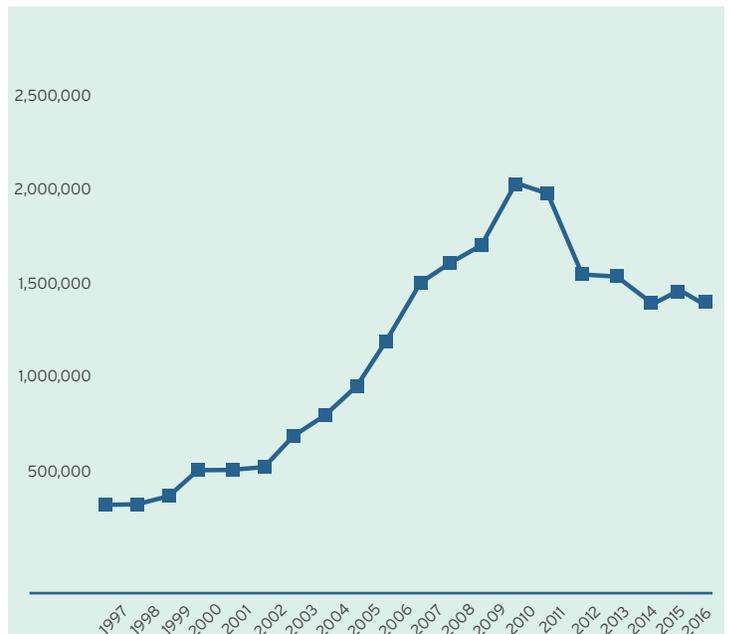
The ten poorest counties taxed themselves at nearly double the rate of the ten wealthiest counties - \$0.83 compared to \$0.43, a 40-cent difference. In spite of this, because of the disparity in real estate wealth capacity, the revenue the poorest counties could generate, even at the higher tax rate, was substantially lower than what the wealthier counties could generate at lower rates. The poorest counties continue raising their tax rates, while the wealthiest counties lower theirs, and yet the substantial revenue disparity persists.

### TAXABLE REAL ESTATE WEALTH PER CHILD



The wealthiest counties have more than five times the taxable property wealth per child available to the ten poorest counties. As a result, even though the ten poorest counties tax themselves at double the rate of the wealthiest counties, the revenue they generate through taxation is substantially lower.

### WIDENING REAL ESTATE WEALTH GAP



The difference in real estate wealth capacity between the ten wealthiest and ten poorest counties has grown from \$477,477 in 1997 to \$1,522,591.55 in 2016.

## SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REMAINS CRUCIAL

In 1991, the state enacted supplemental funds for low-wealth and small counties, in part to address the limited capacity that some counties have to raise revenues through taxation because of their limited local resources and size. In 2015-16 the General Assembly provided an appropriation of \$193.1 million for 68 low-wealth counties (79 districts) and \$41.5 million for 25 small counties.

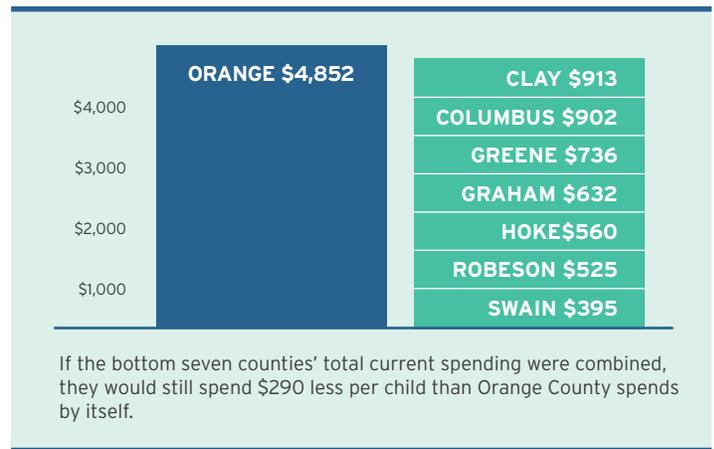
**Low-wealth supplemental funding** is provided to systems whose ability to generate local revenue per student is below the state average. Some of the factors used to determine eligibility are county adjusted property tax base, square miles in the county, and per capita income. In 2015-16, low-wealth eligible counties received total low-wealth supplemental funding ranging from \$1,078 to \$16.9 million. Per-student dollars ranged from \$0.55 (Mitchell) to \$720.76 (Robeson).

**Small county supplemental funding** is provided to systems whose ability to generate local revenue per student is below the state average. Some of the factors used to determine eligibility are county adjusted property tax base, square miles in the county, and per capita income. In 2015-16, low-wealth eligible counties received total low-wealth supplemental funding ranging from \$1,078 to \$16.9 million. Per-student dollars ranged from \$0.55 (Mitchell) to \$720.76 (Robeson).

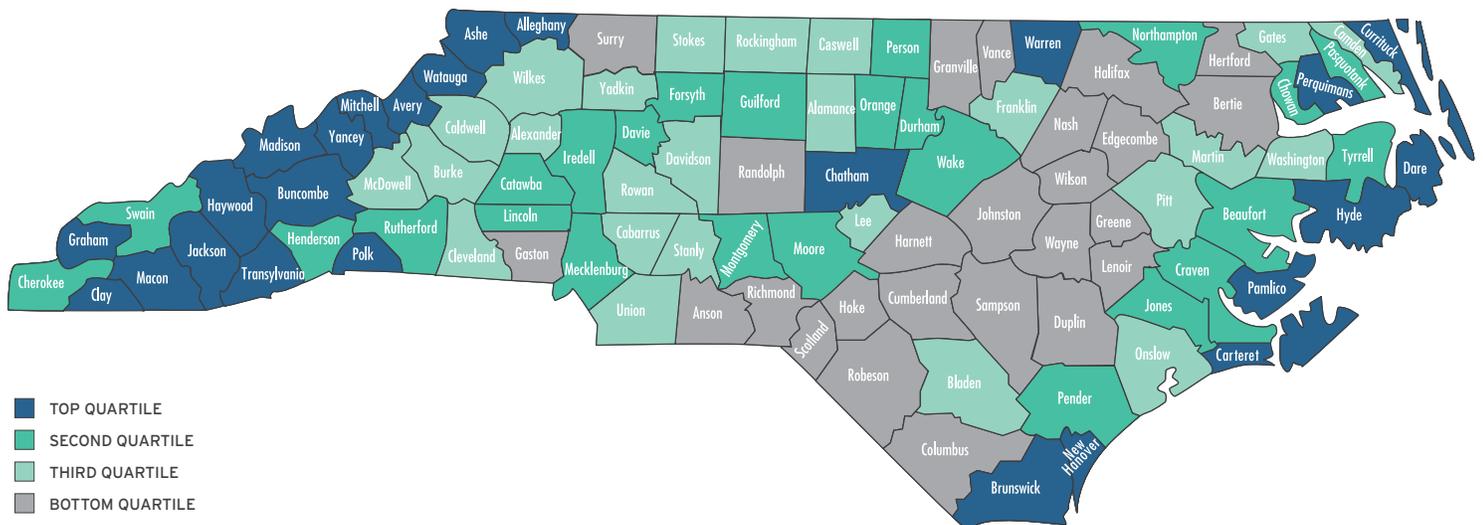
As counties play an increasingly larger role in funding their schools, disparities in resources available to counties can be

illustrated by dividing the state into quartiles according to adjusted property wealth available per child. The top quartile includes high-growth Piedmont and mountain and beach resort areas, which had an average of \$1,421,190.97 real estate wealth available per child - \$640,348 above the state average. The bottom quartile has \$424,588.54 real estate wealth available per child - \$356,254.71 below the state average. The map illustrates where counties in each quartile are located throughout the state. In 2015-16, 32 counties were above the state average property wealth of \$780,843.25 available per child, while 68 counties were below the state average.

## SPENDING DISPARITIES



## DISPARITIES IN REAL ESTATE WEALTH



## > NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

### CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The Department of Public Instruction's Division of School Business' *Report on Average Daily Membership and Membership Last Day by LEA (ADM & MLD)* provides estimates of charter school enrollment in each county. Adding charter school enrollments to the ADM of the county in which each charter school is located produces a base calculation of total ADM for each county. However, charter schools may enroll students from across county lines, with local funding flowing from each student's district of residence to the charter school he or she attends (this is different from state ADM funding for charter schools). These cross-district enrollments are not captured by the ADM & MLD report.

Therefore, the 2018 Local School Finance Study relies on results of a survey of districts conducted by the Division of School Business in 2016 to account for all students within each district who attend charter schools. Survey data are provided at the Office of Charter Schools website for information only and are not used for any financial or budget purposes.

### CAPITAL SPENDING

Data from the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer's *Report on County Spending on Public School Capital Outlays* was used to calculate a six-year average of county appropriations for capital outlay, interest on debt for school construction, and the net change in capital reserves. Withdrawals from the Public School Building Capital Fund, Grants from the Public School Building Bond Fund, and the North Carolina Education Lottery Funds have been removed from the county total. The debt service includes expenditures for school bond repayment and lease purchase agreements. The capital outlay is actual spending on capital projects or equipment for buildings.

### SALES/ASSESSMENT RATIO

In North Carolina, most residential and commercial property is revalued once every eight years. Prior to 1984 it was difficult to compare tax wealth and effort because of this impediment to estimating the market value of property valuations. In 1984 the Department of Revenue completed its first statewide Sales/Assessment Ratio Study, comparing the market value of recently sold property with its assessed value. Using the ratio of assessed property value to market value, the Department calculated an adjusted property tax rate for each county. The longer it has been since a county has undergone reevaluation, the more likely it is that the market value of property in the county exceeds its assessed valuation.

Rapidly growing communities have numerous demands on public services, and the demands tend to outstrip land value increases. Therefore, to meet the increase in demands for additional services, local officials must either revalue property more often or raise taxes. In an effort to make this study as accurate as possible, a three-year weighted average is used to calculate the adjusted property valuation. This approach is intended to result in more accurate valuations for small, rural counties where relatively few land transactions might have taken place during any given year.

### OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

The primary source of local revenue is property taxes. In addition to property taxes, this study includes a county's share of local option sales taxes and fines and forfeitures. Allotments from the ADM fund and grants for school construction have been removed to isolate capital spending. Finally, 11 counties have supplemental school taxes, with additional revenue totaling \$62.2 million in 2015-16.



**TABLE 1: RANKING OF ADJUSTED PROPERTY VALUATIONS PER STUDENT**

This table reflects the real estate wealth available to counties to support education. The ranking is based on the total adjusted property valuation for each county, divided by the number of students attending public school in the county. The property valuation was adjusted using a three-year weighted average of the Sales/Assessment Ratios.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	LAST YEAR REVALUED	EFFECTIVE COUNTY TAX RATE	2015-16 ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX BASE	2015-16 FINAL ADM	ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX BASE PER ADM
Dare	1	1	2013	\$0.41	\$13,654,055,530	4,953	\$2,756,724.31
Jackson	2	2	2008	\$0.39	\$8,689,673,928	3,933	\$2,209,426.37
Watauga	3	3	2014	\$0.31	\$8,884,262,849	4,455	\$1,994,222.86
Avery	4	4	2014	\$0.41	\$3,959,728,622	2,110	\$1,876,648.64
Hyde	5	5	2009	\$0.69	\$1,092,299,180	585	\$1,867,178.09
Macon	6	7	2015	\$0.35	\$8,006,810,394	4,389	\$1,824,290.36
Brunswick	7	6	2015	\$0.48	\$23,508,374,368	13,371	\$1,758,161.27
Carteret	8	8	2015	\$0.30	\$14,366,573,194	8,463	\$1,697,574.52
Transylvania	9	10	2009	\$0.47	\$5,894,964,628	3,727	\$1,581,691.61
Currituck	10	9	2013	\$0.46	\$6,211,367,553	3,991	\$1,556,343.66
Ashe	11	12	2015	\$0.43	\$3,872,258,299	3,082	\$1,256,410.87
Alleghany	12	17	2015	\$0.51	\$1,698,819,992	1,377	\$1,233,710.96
Polk	13	16	2009	\$0.52	\$2,774,224,892	2,289	\$1,211,981.17
Clay	14	11	2010	\$0.49	\$1,599,900,993	1,323	\$1,209,297.80
New Hanover	15	15	2012	\$0.54	\$31,638,285,155	26,789	\$1,181,017.77
Yancey	16	13	2008	\$0.50	\$2,592,958,148	2,204	\$1,176,478.29
Pamlico	17	14	2012	\$0.56	\$1,776,359,076	1,530	\$1,161,019.00
Perquimans	18	20	2008	\$0.57	\$1,802,277,976	1,700	\$1,060,163.52
Buncombe	19	19	2013	\$0.56	\$31,355,653,265	30,598	\$1,024,761.53
Chatham	20	21	2009	\$0.63	\$9,508,603,606	9,404	\$1,011,123.31
Warren	21	24	2009	\$0.75	\$2,382,278,968	2,400	\$992,616.24
Haywood	22	22	2011	\$0.57	\$7,318,554,819	7,388	\$990,600.27
Graham	23	18	2015	\$0.58	\$1,126,905,526	1,156	\$974,831.77
Madison	24	23	2012	\$0.46	\$2,324,672,591	2,390	\$972,666.36
Henderson	25	26	2015	\$0.51	\$13,257,474,456	13,943	\$950,833.71
Mitchell	26	27	2014	\$0.53	\$1,734,090,009	1,885	\$919,941.65
Moore	27	25	2015	\$0.46	\$11,933,104,925	13,288	\$898,036.19
Cherokee	28	28	2012	\$0.55	\$2,970,590,785	3,504	\$847,771.34
Northampton	29	29	2015	\$0.91	\$1,938,201,463	2,323	\$834,352.76
Orange	30	31	2009	\$0.88	\$16,700,296,598	20,127	\$829,745.94
Durham	31	30	2008	\$0.81	\$31,814,961,926	39,091	\$813,869.23
Mecklenburg	32	36	2011	\$0.76	\$126,717,841,727	160,979	\$787,170.01
Jones	33	39	2014	\$0.75	\$843,707,241	1,081	\$780,487.73
Wake	34	37	2008	\$0.64	\$127,543,747,293	166,189	\$767,462.03
Swain	35	34	2013	\$0.38	\$1,526,557,041	1,993	\$765,959.38
Person	36	35	2013	\$0.72	\$4,335,623,241	5,674	\$764,121.12
Iredell	37	38	2015	\$0.52	\$21,803,924,871	28,858	\$755,559.11
Beaufort	38	33	2010	\$0.62	\$5,286,005,933	7,171	\$737,136.51
Pender	39	40	2011	\$0.70	\$6,577,887,266	8,944	\$735,452.51
Montgomery	40	41	2012	\$0.63	\$2,970,546,045	4,070	\$729,863.89
Tyrrell	41	32	2009	\$0.89	\$409,170,055	584	\$700,633.66
Lincoln	42	44	2015	\$0.60	\$8,701,287,631	12,621	\$689,429.33
Chowan	43	46	2014	\$0.69	\$1,428,647,858	2,077	\$687,842.01
Rutherford	44	43	2012	\$0.61	\$6,294,931,141	9,233	\$681,786.11
Davie	45	45	2013	\$0.74	\$4,269,861,361	6,273	\$680,672.94
Catawba	46	42	2015	\$0.57	\$16,136,569,348	23,867	\$676,103.80
Craven	47	47	2010	\$0.52	\$9,137,932,858	14,183	\$644,287.73
Guilford	48	48	2012	\$0.74	\$48,450,769,224	76,736	\$631,395.55
Stokes	49	51	2013	\$0.62	\$3,731,728,219	6,251	\$596,981.00
Camden	50	57	2015	\$0.67	\$1,071,693,855	1,801	\$595,054.89
Rowan	51	54	2015	\$0.68	\$11,727,711,194	19,731	\$594,379.97
McDowell	52	53	2011	\$0.54	\$3,642,640,387	6,213	\$586,293.32
Forsyth	53	49	2013	\$0.72	\$33,072,760,622	56,663	\$583,674.72
Wilkes	54	50	2013	\$0.66	\$5,616,466,661	9,638	\$582,741.92
Washington	55	61	2013	\$0.80	\$897,093,632	1,620	\$553,761.50
Davidson	56	52	2015	\$0.54	\$13,620,526,962	24,731	\$550,747.12
Bladen	57	55	2015	\$0.82	\$2,701,913,113	4,908	\$550,512.04
Caldwell	58	56	2013	\$0.60	\$6,611,681,474	12,013	\$550,377.21
Caswell	59	59	2008	\$0.68	\$1,564,070,354	2,884	\$542,326.75
Cabarrus	60	60	2012	\$0.67	\$20,845,028,722	38,443	\$542,232.10
Union	61	68	2015	\$0.77	\$23,685,356,121	43,894	\$539,603.50
Rockingham	62	62	2011	\$0.72	\$6,963,024,697	12,987	\$536,153.44
Stanly	63	58	2013	\$0.64	\$4,641,237,807	8,754	\$530,184.81
Yadkin	64	66	2009	\$0.69	\$2,848,071,215	5,388	\$528,595.25
Alexander	65	71	2015	\$0.77	\$2,594,813,903	4,952	\$523,993.11
Onslow	66	63	2014	\$0.67	\$13,493,580,965	25,895	\$521,088.28
Bertie	67	73	2012	\$0.81	\$1,308,153,124	2,523	\$518,491.13
Martin	68	69	2009	\$0.79	\$1,851,451,702	3,614	\$512,299.86
Lee	69	65	2013	\$0.79	\$5,120,215,881	10,000	\$512,021.59
Alamance	70	70	2009	\$0.63	\$12,184,339,637	23,841	\$511,066.63
Burke	71	67	2013	\$0.68	\$6,426,630,377	12,617	\$509,362.79
Pasquotank	72	64	2014	\$0.78	\$2,936,763,842	5,817	\$504,858.83
Cleveland	73	77	2008	\$0.76	\$7,944,616,112	15,814	\$502,378.66
Franklin	74	78	2012	\$0.89	\$4,668,113,149	9,320	\$500,870.51
Pitt	75	75	2012	\$0.68	\$12,035,973,100	24,038	\$500,706.09
Anson	76	79	2010	\$0.87	\$1,714,150,730	3,428	\$500,043.97
Gates	77	72	2009	\$0.84	\$806,008,078	1,615	\$499,076.21
Hertford	78	74	2011	\$1.00	\$1,426,854,451	2,898	\$492,358.33
Wilson	79	80	2008	\$0.80	\$6,500,702,864	13,355	\$486,761.73
Surry	80	81	2012	\$0.58	\$5,544,267,321	11,502	\$482,026.37
Randolph	81	82	2014	\$0.63	\$10,767,128,431	22,846	\$471,291.62
Gaston	82	84	2015	\$0.87	\$15,382,809,363	33,134	\$464,260.56
Halifax	83	83	2015	\$0.72	\$3,517,722,903	7,725	\$455,368.66
Edgecombe	84	86	2009	\$0.98	\$3,102,668,596	6,904	\$449,401.59
Lenoir	85	85	2009	\$0.86	\$4,060,216,517	9,044	\$448,940.35
Granville	86	76	2010	\$0.86	\$3,912,442,462	8,812	\$443,990.29
Cumberland	87	87	2009	\$0.78	\$22,271,791,795	50,773	\$438,654.24
Nash	88	89	2009	\$0.68	\$7,165,697,664	16,353	\$438,188.57
Johnston	89	90	2011	\$0.77	\$15,134,988,925	35,409	\$427,433.39
Duplin	90	88	2009	\$0.71	\$4,136,834,716	9,703	\$426,345.95
Wayne	91	91	2011	\$0.67	\$8,086,359,150	19,024	\$425,060.93
Richmond	92	92	2008	\$0.83	\$3,120,804,020	7,360	\$424,022.29
Columbus	93	93	2013	\$0.78	\$3,675,672,621	8,957	\$410,368.72
Hoke	94	94	2014	\$0.75	\$3,387,319,050	8,600	\$393,874.31
Harnett	95	96	2009	\$0.78	\$7,737,878,999	20,576	\$376,063.33
Sampson	96	95	2011	\$0.86	\$4,200,100,445	11,422	\$367,720.23
Scotland	97	97	2011	\$1.06	\$2,091,682,789	5833	\$358,594.68
Greene	98	98	2013	\$0.82	\$1,058,818,848	3,149	\$336,239.71
Vance	99	99	2008	\$0.98	\$2,442,771,724	7,420	\$329,214.52
Robeson	100	100	2010	\$0.77	\$6,355,182,882	23,589	\$269,412.98
<b>State Total/Average</b>				<b>\$0.669</b>	<b>\$1,030,230,126,019</b>	<b>1,512,082</b>	<b>\$780,843.25</b>

**TABLE 2: ACTUAL EFFORT**

This table reflects the actual dollar effort of communities to fund schools, without taking into account property wealth. This ranking is based on 2015-16 total current spending for each county (including supplemental school taxes) divided by the number of students attending public school in the county. High-wealth communities with corresponding high levels of spending tend to rank highest in this measure.

COUNTY	RANK THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2015-16 CURRENT SPENDING	2015-16 CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM	2015-16 SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL TAXES	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING (WITH SUPPLEMENTAL)	2015-16 FINAL ADM	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM
Orange	1	1	\$75,085,191	\$3,731	\$22,570,565.00	\$97,655,756	20,127	\$4,852
Dare	2	2	\$20,664,318	\$4,172		\$20,664,318	4,953	\$4,172
Durham	3	3	\$123,031,937	\$3,147		\$123,031,937	39,091	\$3,147
Transylvania	4	5	\$11,161,610	\$2,995		\$11,161,610	3,727	\$2,995
Chatham	5	4	\$28,126,130	\$2,991		\$28,126,130	9,404	\$2,991
Watauga	6	6	\$12,557,769	\$2,819		\$12,557,769	4,455	\$2,819
New Hanover	7	7	\$70,610,100	\$2,636		\$70,610,100	26,789	\$2,636
Hyde	8	13	\$1,470,336	\$2,513		\$1,470,336	585	\$2,513
Mecklenburg	9	9	\$401,986,016	\$2,497		\$401,986,016	160,979	\$2,497
Carteret	10	8	\$20,354,396	\$2,405		\$20,354,396	8,463	\$2,405
Guilford	11	12	\$183,360,398	\$2,389		\$183,360,398	76,736	\$2,389
Currituck	12	10	\$9,503,189	\$2,381		\$9,503,189	3,991	\$2,381
Brunswick	13	11	\$31,276,705	\$2,339		\$31,276,705	13,371	\$2,339
Wake	14	16	\$384,849,031	\$2,316		\$384,849,031	166,189	\$2,316
Buncombe	15	14	\$62,229,890	\$2,034	\$7,992,972.00	\$70,222,862	30,598	\$2,295
Polk	16	15	\$5,034,788	\$2,200		\$5,034,788	2,289	\$2,200
Warren	17	25	\$4,945,463	\$2,061		\$4,945,463	2,400	\$2,061
Avery	18	20	\$4,337,518	\$2,056		\$4,337,518	2,110	\$2,056
Union	19	18	\$87,825,791	\$2,001		\$87,825,791	43,894	\$2,001
Forsyth	20	19	\$110,378,008	\$1,948		\$110,378,008	56,663	\$1,948
Haywood	21	17	\$14,236,239	\$1,927		\$14,236,239	7,388	\$1,927
Moore	22	21	\$25,228,987	\$1,899		\$25,228,987	13,288	\$1,899
Scotland	23	23	\$10,826,612	\$1,856		\$10,826,612	5,833	\$1,856
Alleghany	24	30	\$2,550,117	\$1,852		\$2,550,117	1,377	\$1,852
Beaufort	25	26	\$13,233,163	\$1,845		\$13,233,163	7,171	\$1,845
Gates	26	22	\$2,945,000	\$1,824		\$2,945,000	1,615	\$1,824
Pamlico	27	29	\$2,782,949	\$1,819		\$2,782,949	1,530	\$1,819
Macon	28	24	\$7,846,962	\$1,788		\$7,846,962	4,389	\$1,788
Cherokee	29	28	\$6,062,459	\$1,730		\$6,062,459	3,504	\$1,730
Onslow	30	67	\$44,783,060	\$1,729		\$44,783,060	25,895	\$1,729
Cabarrus	31	31	\$65,880,620	\$1,714		\$65,880,620	38,443	\$1,714
Jackson	32	27	\$6,731,126	\$1,711		\$6,731,126	3,933	\$1,711
Iredell	33	32	\$43,169,620	\$1,496	\$5,545,575.00	\$48,715,195	28,858	\$1,688
Henderson	34	33	\$23,525,770	\$1,687		\$23,525,770	13,943	\$1,687
Chowan	35	37	\$3,488,455	\$1,680		\$3,488,455	2,077	\$1,680
Rowan	36	34	\$33,056,918	\$1,675		\$33,056,918	19,731	\$1,675
Jones	37	36	\$1,794,024	\$1,660		\$1,794,024	1,081	\$1,660
Stokes	38	35	\$10,271,763	\$1,643		\$10,271,763	6,251	\$1,643
Davie	39	41	\$10,282,445	\$1,639		\$10,282,445	6,273	\$1,639
Lee	40	39	\$16,312,278	\$1,631		\$16,312,278	10,000	\$1,631
Pasquotank	41	38	\$9,250,400	\$1,590		\$9,250,400	5,817	\$1,590
Franklin	42	44	\$14,472,841	\$1,553		\$14,472,841	9,320	\$1,553
Cumberland	43	40	\$78,236,913	\$1,541		\$78,236,913	50,773	\$1,541
Northampton	44	53	\$3,575,511	\$1,539		\$3,575,511	2,323	\$1,539
Alamance	45	52	\$36,417,749	\$1,528		\$36,417,749	23,841	\$1,528
Catawba	46	49	\$36,342,228	\$1,523		\$36,342,228	23,867	\$1,523
Pitt	47	43	\$36,576,287	\$1,522		\$36,576,287	24,038	\$1,522
Johnston	48	42	\$53,493,000	\$1,511		\$53,493,000	35,409	\$1,511
Ashe	49	46	\$4,641,903	\$1,506		\$4,641,903	3,082	\$1,506
Hertford	50	48	\$4,273,524	\$1,475		\$4,273,524	2,898	\$1,475
Pender	51	45	\$13,087,356	\$1,463		\$13,087,356	8,944	\$1,463
Craven	52	54	\$20,542,791	\$1,448		\$20,542,791	14,183	\$1,448
Rutherford	53	68	\$13,095,375	\$1,418		\$13,095,375	9,233	\$1,418
Wilson	54	57	\$18,823,625	\$1,409		\$18,823,625	13,355	\$1,409
Granville	55	51	\$12,385,287	\$1,406		\$12,385,287	8,812	\$1,406
Yancey	56	59	\$3,091,472	\$1,403		\$3,091,472	2,204	\$1,403
Perquimans	57	58	\$2,375,000	\$1,397		\$2,375,000	1,700	\$1,397
Martin	58	47	\$4,988,144	\$1,380		\$4,988,144	3,614	\$1,380
Nash	59	55	\$22,285,846	\$1,363	\$127,250.00	\$22,413,096	16,353	\$1,371
Lincoln	60	61	\$17,009,606	\$1,348		\$17,009,606	12,621	\$1,348
Person	61	62	\$7,544,250	\$1,330		\$7,544,250	5,674	\$1,330
Davidson	62	50	\$29,905,629	\$1,209	\$2,831,211.00	\$32,736,840	24,731	\$1,324
Gaston	63	60	\$43,816,704	\$1,322		\$43,816,704	33,134	\$1,322
Cleveland	64	63	\$9,900,000	\$626	\$11,002,947.00	\$20,902,947	15,814	\$1,322
Bladen	65	56	\$6,400,245	\$1,304		\$6,400,245	4,908	\$1,304
McDowell	66	64	\$8,001,390	\$1,288		\$8,001,390	6,213	\$1,288
Anson	67	75	\$4,311,011	\$1,258		\$4,311,011	3,428	\$1,258
Montgomery	68	65	\$5,078,602	\$1,248		\$5,078,602	4,070	\$1,248
Caldwell	69	66	\$14,822,012	\$1,234		\$14,822,012	12,013	\$1,234
Rockingham	70	70	\$15,834,840	\$1,219		\$15,834,840	12,919	\$1,219
Randolph	71	71	\$22,153,194	\$970	\$5,426,043.00	\$27,579,237	22,846	\$1,207
Mitchell	72	74	\$2,260,622	\$1,199		\$2,260,622	1,885	\$1,199
Surry	73	69	\$12,018,710	\$1,045	\$1,758,792.00	\$13,777,502	11,502	\$1,198
Bertie	74	89	\$3,003,000	\$1,190		\$3,003,000	2,523	\$1,190
Wilkes	75	72	\$11,436,728	\$1,187		\$11,436,728	9,638	\$1,187
Alexander	76	82	\$5,781,900	\$1,168		\$5,781,900	4,952	\$1,168
Stanly	77	73	\$10,195,243	\$1,165		\$10,195,243	8,754	\$1,165
Camden	78	79	\$2,072,942	\$1,151		\$2,072,942	1,801	\$1,151
Burke	79	77	\$14,246,967	\$1,129		\$14,246,967	12,617	\$1,129
Yadkin	80	76	\$6,040,725	\$1,121		\$6,040,725	5,388	\$1,121
Sampson	81	83	\$10,847,520	\$950	\$1,718,250.00	\$12,565,770	11,422	\$1,100
Lenoir	82	78	\$9,900,000	\$1,095		\$9,900,000	9,044	\$1,095
Halifax	83	81	\$5,419,231	\$702	\$3,009,592.00	\$8,428,823	7,725	\$1,091
Harnett	84	80	\$21,267,993	\$1,034	\$252,019.00	\$21,520,012	20,576	\$1,046
Madison	85	84	\$2,495,560	\$1,044		\$2,495,560	2,390	\$1,044
Wayne	86	85	\$19,259,728	\$1,012		\$19,259,728	19,024	\$1,012
Edgecombe	87	90	\$6,904,530	\$1,000		\$6,904,530	6,904	\$1,000
Washington	88	88	\$1,603,000	\$990		\$1,603,000	1,620	\$990
Duplin	89	86	\$9,553,920	\$985		\$9,553,920	9,703	\$985
Richmond	90	93	\$7,175,000	\$975		\$7,175,000	7,360	\$975
Vance	91	87	\$7,202,440	\$971		\$7,202,440	7,420	\$971
Caswell	92	91	\$2,700,468	\$936		\$2,700,468	2,884	\$936
Tyrrell	93	92	\$537,595	\$921		\$537,595	584	\$921
Clay	94	94	\$1,207,500	\$913		\$1,207,500	1,323	\$913
Columbus	95	95	\$7,181,259	\$802		\$7,181,259	8,957	\$802
Greene	96	96	\$2,317,000	\$736		\$2,317,000	3,149	\$736
Graham	97	99	\$731,078	\$632		\$731,078	1,156	\$632
Hoke	98	97	\$4,812,418	\$560		\$4,812,418	8,600	\$560
Robeson	99	98	\$12,375,000	\$525		\$12,375,000	23,589	\$525
Swain	100	100	\$786,541	\$395		\$786,541	1,993	\$395
<b>State Total/Average</b>			<b>\$27,678,645</b>	<b>\$1,563</b>	<b>\$62,235,216</b>	<b>\$2,830,999,720</b>	<b>1,512,082</b>	<b>\$1,596</b>

**TABLE 2A: SIX-YEAR AVERAGE OF CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE**

This table provides a six-year average of capital outlay and debt service, ordered according to the rankings from Table 2. In previous years' studies, this data was included in Table 2.

COUNTY	ACTUAL EFFORT RANK THIS YEAR (FROM TABLE 2)	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM (FROM TABLE 2)	SIX-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY AVERAGE	SIX-YEAR CAPITAL DEBT SERVICE AVERAGE	2015-16 FINAL ADM	CAPITAL OUTLAY SPENDING PER ADM	DEBT SERVICE PER ADM
Orange	1	\$4,852	\$12,886,219	\$15,911,814	20,127	640.25	790.57
Dare	2	\$4,172	\$2,166,838	\$7,898,969	4,953	437.48	1594.78
Durham	3	\$3,147	\$35,476,318	\$11,553,390	39,091	907.53	295.55
Transylvania	4	\$2,995	\$1,513,887	\$2,460,412	3,727	406.19	660.16
Chatham	5	\$2,991	\$5,247,654	\$3,955,344	9,404	558.02	420.6
Watauga	6	\$2,819	\$1,788,150	\$6,960,263	4,455	401.38	1562.35
New Hanover	7	\$2,636	\$6,592,008	\$18,096,497	26,789	246.07	675.52
Hyde	8	\$2,513	\$836,173	\$141,354	585	1429.36	241.63
Mecklenburg	9	\$2,497	\$83,089,392	\$118,685,246	160,979	516.15	737.27
Carteret	10	\$2,405	\$3,796,564	\$6,650,535	8,463	448.61	785.84
Guilford	11	\$2,389	\$59,121,866	\$49,657,215	76,736	770.46	647.12
Currituck	12	\$2,381	\$1,346,605	\$1,436,355	3,991	337.41	359.9
Brunswick	13	\$2,339	\$3,883,750	\$5,556,898	13,371	290.46	415.59
Wake	14	\$2,316	\$104,911,748	\$162,284,297	166,189	631.28	976.5
Buncombe	15	\$2,295	\$26,391,089	\$14,121,833	30,598	862.51	461.53
Polk	16	\$2,200	\$475,405	\$815,673	2,289	207.69	356.34
Warren	17	\$2,061	\$608,617	\$280,162	2,400	253.59	116.73
Avery	18	\$2,056	\$2,128,325	\$1,482,020	2,110	1008.68	702.38
Union	19	\$2,001	\$7,352,467	\$44,521,560	43,894	167.51	1014.3
Forsyth	20	\$1,948	\$35,429,061	\$27,970,821	56,663	625.26	493.63
Haywood	21	\$1,927	\$887,595	\$2,184,987	7,388	120.14	295.75
Moore	22	\$1,899	\$3,601,081	\$5,878,958	13,288	271	442.43
Scotland	23	\$1,856	\$552,387	\$348,230	5,833	94.7	59.7
Alleghany	24	\$1,852	\$773,279	\$779,732	1,377	561.57	566.25
Beaufort	25	\$1,845	\$1,200,462	\$2,640,014	7,171	167.41	368.15
Gates	26	\$1,824	\$479,920	\$814,378	1,615	297.16	504.26
Pamlico	27	\$1,819	\$126,127	\$424,901	1,530	82.44	277.71
Macon	28	\$1,788	\$4,150,565	\$4,758,118	4,389	945.67	1084.1
Cherokee	29	\$1,730	\$793,832	\$1,000,357	3,504	226.55	285.49
Onslow	30	\$1,729	\$2,268,442	\$8,016,552	25,895	87.6	309.58
Cabarrus	31	\$1,714	\$11,690,169	\$28,814,371	38,443	304.09	749.53
Jackson	32	\$1,711	\$3,552,324	\$2,153,800	3,933	903.21	547.62
Iredell	33	\$1,688	\$5,255,926	\$25,174,498	28,858	182.13	872.36
Henderson	34	\$1,687	\$2,081,126	\$4,817,600	13,943	149.26	345.52
Chowan	35	\$1,680	\$84,820	\$736,518	2,077	40.84	354.61
Rowan	36	\$1,675	\$2,209,643	\$9,233,861	19,731	111.99	467.99
Jones	37	\$1,660	\$173,612	\$33,498	1,081	160.6	30.99
Stokes	38	\$1,643	\$5,725,042	\$2,672,390	6,251	915.86	427.51
Davie	39	\$1,639	\$2,524,280	\$1,837,562	6,273	402.4	292.93
Lee	40	\$1,631	\$5,140,425	\$7,202,060	10,000	514.04	720.21
Pasquotank	41	\$1,590	\$841,818	\$2,599,379	5,817	144.72	446.86
Franklin	42	\$1,553	\$7,429,613	\$6,674,993	9,320	797.17	716.2
Cumberland	43	\$1,541	\$12,733,393	\$5,581,303	50,773	250.79	109.93
Northampton	44	\$1,539	\$355,367	\$700,516	2,323	152.98	301.56
Alamance	45	\$1,528	\$1,893,370	\$5,845,534	23,841	79.42	245.19
Catawba	46	\$1,523	\$15,602,312	\$19,012,303	23,867	653.72	796.59
Pitt	47	\$1,522	\$5,438,220	\$8,471,306	24,038	226.23	352.41
Johnston	48	\$1,511	\$5,888,520	\$30,675,770	35,409	166.3	866.33
Ashe	49	\$1,506	\$764,251	\$1,773,979	3,082	247.97	575.59
Hertford	50	\$1,475	\$502,242	\$2,898	2,898	173.31	0
Pender	51	\$1,463	\$1,653,317	\$5,273,351	8,944	184.85	589.6
Craven	52	\$1,448	\$1,133,270	\$4,627,116	14,183	79.9	326.24
Rutherford	53	\$1,418	\$398,904	\$4,883,369	9,233	43.2	528.9
Wilson	54	\$1,409	\$651,285	\$3,819,537	13,555	48.77	286
Granville	55	\$1,406	\$3,533,581	\$4,523,567	8,812	401	513.34
Yancey	56	\$1,403	\$501,342	\$2,204	2,204	227.47	0
Perquimans	57	\$1,397	\$223,172	\$627,065	1,700	131.28	368.86
Martin	58	\$1,380	\$3,412,874	\$956,835	3,614	944.35	264.76
Nash	59	\$1,371	\$1,017,121	\$2,457,767	16,353	673.71	150.29
Lincoln	60	\$1,348	\$3,639,528	\$6,268,157	12,621	288.37	496.65
Person	61	\$1,330	\$1,478,060	\$2,606,384	5,674	260.5	459.36
Davidson	62	\$1,324	\$8,872,615	\$7,432,759	24,731	358.76	300.54
Gaston	63	\$1,322	\$15,659,355	\$8,443,213	33,134	472.61	254.82
Cleveland	64	\$1,322	\$7,491,514	\$1,519,409	15,814	473.73	96.08
Bladen	65	\$1,304	\$441,559	\$1,379,959	4,908	89.97	281.17
McDowell	66	\$1,288	\$2,850,742	\$990,577	6,213	458.83	159.44
Anson	67	\$1,258	\$175,572	\$444,794	3,428	51.22	129.75
Montgomery	68	\$1,248	\$132,432	\$1,194,463	4,070	32.54	293.48
Caldwell	69	\$1,234	\$1,880,319	\$1,201,808	12,013	156.52	100.04
Rockingham	70	\$1,219	\$4,233,135	\$2,772,578	12,987	325.95	213.49
Randolph	71	\$1,207	\$3,598,462	\$9,962,016	22,846	157.51	436.05
Mitchell	72	\$1,199	\$387,278	\$221,678	1,885	205.45	117.6
Surry	73	\$1,198	\$3,710,836	\$4,394,157	11,502	322.63	382.03
Bertie	74	\$1,190	\$598,609	\$673,674	2,523	237.26	267.01
Wilkes	75	\$1,187	\$1,833,960	\$3,693,350	9,638	190.28	383.21
Alexander	76	\$1,168	\$159,304	\$1,101,416	4,952	32.17	222.42
Stanly	77	\$1,165	\$1,959,686	\$1,382,124	8,754	223.86	157.88
Camden	78	\$1,151	\$440,358	\$1,801	1,801	0	244.51
Burke	79	\$1,129	\$2,432,219	\$3,874,574	12,617	192.77	307.09
Yadkin	80	\$1,121	\$501,677	\$1,910,781	5,388	93.11	354.64
Sampson	81	\$1,100	\$3,398,270	\$7,583,630	11,422	297.52	663.95
Lenoir	82	\$1,095	\$1,337,141	\$2,078,810	9,044	147.85	229.86
Halifax	83	\$1,091	\$1,229,323	\$1,343,705	7,725	159.14	173.94
Harnett	84	\$1,046	\$7,811,541	\$8,688,789	20,576	379.64	422.28
Madison	85	\$1,044	\$365,512	\$284,719	2,390	152.93	119.13
Wayne	86	\$1,012	\$13,221,082	\$592,228	19,024	694.97	31.13
Edgecombe	87	\$1,000	\$1,358,919	\$727,791	6,904	196.83	105.42
Washington	88	\$990	\$542,937	\$90,924	1,620	335.15	56.13
Duplin	89	\$985	\$1,180,101	\$1,233,893	9,703	121.62	127.17
Richmond	90	\$975	\$2,111,938	\$620,680	7,360	286.95	84.33
Vance	91	\$971	\$1,950,161	\$1,486,158	7,420	262.82	200.29
Caswell	92	\$936	\$330,080	\$392,540	2,884	114.45	136.11
Tyrrell	93	\$921	\$57,045	\$96,716	584	97.68	165.61
Clay	94	\$913	\$278,548	\$117,208	1,323	210.54	88.59
Columbus	95	\$802	\$1,783,936	\$292,030	8,957	199.17	32.6
Greene	96	\$736	\$2,748,816	\$545,806	3,149	872.92	173.33
Graham	97	\$632	\$15,935	\$340,970	1,156	13.78	294.96
Hoke	98	\$560	\$4,577,030	\$1,300,516	8,600	532.21	151.22
Robeson	99	\$525	\$3,619,666	\$2,589	23,589	153.45	0
Swain	100	\$395	\$499,327	\$696,501	1,993	250.54	349.47
<b>State Total/Average</b>		<b>\$1,596</b>	<b>\$632,741,336</b>	<b>\$808,888,578</b>	<b>1,512,082</b>	<b>\$334</b>	<b>\$390</b>

**TABLE 3: ACTUAL EFFORT WITH SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR LOW-WEALTH AND SMALL COUNTIES**

This table uses many of the same figures as Table 2, but adds state supplemental funding for low-wealth and small counties to the total current spending. Counties are ranked based on their total current spending combined with low-wealth and small county supplemental funding.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING (FROM TABLE 2)	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM	2015-16 LOW-WEALTH FUNDING	2015-16 SMALL COUNTY FUNDING	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING W/ LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY	2015-16 FINAL ADM	2015-16 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM W/ LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY	CHANGE IN SPENDING PER ADM W/ LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY
Hyde	1	3	\$1,470,336.00	\$2,513		\$1,710,000	\$3,180,336.00	585	\$5,436	\$2,923
Orange	2	2	\$97,655,756.00	\$4,852			\$97,655,756.00	20,127	\$4,852	\$0
Dare	3	4	\$20,664,318.00	\$4,172			\$20,664,318.00	4,953	\$4,172	\$0
Tyrrell	4	5	\$537,595.00	\$921	\$139,213	\$1,710,000	\$2,386,808.00	584	\$4,087	\$3,166
Jones	5	1	\$1,794,024.00	\$1,660	\$117,740	\$1,820,000	\$3,731,764.00	1,081	\$3,452	\$1,792
Gates	6	6	\$2,945,000.00	\$1,824	\$819,784	\$1,548,700	\$5,313,484.00	1,615	\$3,290	\$1,466
Durham	7	7	\$123,031,937.00	\$3,147			\$123,031,937.00	39,091	\$3,147	\$0
Pamlico	8	12	\$2,782,949.00	\$1,819		\$1,820,000	\$4,602,949.00	1,530	\$3,008	\$1,189
Transylvania	9	9	\$11,161,610.00	\$2,995			\$11,161,610.00	3,727	\$2,995	\$0
Chatham	10	8	\$28,126,130.00	\$2,991			\$28,126,130.00	9,404	\$2,991	\$0
Alleghany	11	10	\$2,550,117.00	\$1,852		\$1,548,700	\$4,098,817.00	1,377	\$2,977	\$1,125
Polk	12	14	\$5,034,788.00	\$2,200		\$1,560,000	\$6,594,788.00	2,289	\$2,881	\$681
Watauga	13	13	\$12,557,769.00	\$2,819			\$12,557,769.00	4,455	\$2,819	\$0
Avery	14	15	\$4,337,518.00	\$2,056		\$1,560,000	\$5,897,518.00	2,110	\$2,795	\$739
Warren	15	21	\$4,945,463.00	\$2,061	\$264,669	\$1,470,000	\$6,680,132.00	2,400	\$2,783	\$722
New Hanover	16	11	\$70,610,100.00	\$2,636			\$70,610,100.00	26,789	\$2,636	\$0
Chowan	17	27	\$3,488,455.00	\$1,680	\$259,058	\$1,560,000	\$5,307,513.00	2,077	\$2,555	\$875
Northampton	18	23	\$3,575,511.00	\$1,539	\$723,893	\$1,600,000	\$5,899,404.00	2,323	\$2,540	\$1,001
Mecklenburg	19	16	\$401,986,016.00	\$2,497			\$401,986,016.00	160,979	\$2,497	\$0
Hertford	20	26	\$4,273,524.00	\$1,475	\$1,273,196	\$1,548,000	\$7,094,720.00	2,898	\$2,448	\$973
Scotland	21	24	\$10,826,612.00	\$1,856	\$3,401,618		\$14,228,230.00	5,833	\$2,439	\$583
Carteret	22	17	\$20,354,396.00	\$2,405			\$20,354,396.00	8,463	\$2,405	\$0
Guilford	23	25	\$183,360,398.00	\$2,389			\$183,360,398.00	76,736	\$2,389	\$0
Currituck	24	18	\$9,503,189.00	\$2,381			\$9,503,189.00	3,991	\$2,381	\$0
Brunswick	25	22	\$31,276,705.00	\$2,339			\$31,276,705.00	13,371	\$2,339	\$0
Perquimans	26	20	\$2,375,000.00	\$1,397		\$1,600,000	\$3,975,000.00	1,700	\$2,338	\$941
Bertie	27	36	\$3,003,000.00	\$1,190	\$1,371,595	\$1,470,000	\$5,844,595.00	2,523	\$2,317	\$1,127
Wake	28	34	\$384,849,031.00	\$2,316			\$384,849,031.00	166,189	\$2,316	\$0
Washington	29	19	\$1,603,000.00	\$990	\$596,313	\$1,548,700	\$3,748,013.00	1,620	\$2,314	\$1,324
Buncombe	30	28	\$70,222,862.00	\$2,295			\$70,222,862.00	30,598	\$2,295	\$0
Camden	31	31	\$2,072,942.00	\$1,151	\$347,947	\$1,600,000	\$4,020,889.00	1,801	\$2,233	\$1,082
Graham	32	45	\$731,078.00	\$632	\$5,980	\$1,820,000	\$2,557,058.00	1,156	\$2,212	\$1,580
Anson	33	32	\$4,311,011.00	\$1,258	\$2,059,924	\$969,665	\$7,340,600.00	3,428	\$2,141	\$883
Yancey	34	37	\$3,091,472.00	\$1,403		\$1,560,000	\$4,651,472.00	2,204	\$2,110	\$707
Clay	35	30	\$1,207,500.00	\$913		\$1,548,700	\$2,756,200.00	1,323	\$2,083	\$1,170
Union	36	33	\$87,825,791.00	\$2,001	\$2,918,749		\$90,744,540.00	43,894	\$2,067	\$66
Mitchell	37	38	\$2,260,622.00	\$1,199	\$1,078	\$1,600,000	\$3,861,700.00	1,885	\$2,049	\$850
Ashe	38	42	\$4,641,903.00	\$1,506		\$1,548,000	\$6,189,903.00	3,082	\$2,008	\$502
Martin	39	29	\$4,988,144.00	\$1,380	\$1,110,299	\$995,822	\$7,094,265.00	3,614	\$1,963	\$583
Stokes	40	39	\$10,271,763.00	\$1,643	\$1,963,427		\$12,235,190.00	6,251	\$1,957	\$314
Forsyth	41	40	\$110,378,008.00	\$1,948			\$110,378,008.00	56,663	\$1,948	\$0
Haywood	42	35	\$14,236,239.00	\$1,927			\$14,236,239.00	7,388	\$1,927	\$0
Beaufort	43	47	\$13,233,163.00	\$1,845	\$543,609		\$13,776,772.00	7,171	\$1,921	\$76
Franklin	44	44	\$14,472,841.00	\$1,553	\$3,323,485		\$17,796,326.00	9,320	\$1,909	\$356
Rowan	45	48	\$33,056,918.00	\$1,675	\$4,601,480		\$37,658,398.00	19,731	\$1,909	\$234
Moore	46	41	\$25,228,987.00	\$1,899			\$25,228,987.00	13,288	\$1,899	\$0
Pasquotank	47	50	\$9,250,400.00	\$1,590	\$1,639,324		\$10,889,724.00	5,817	\$1,872	\$229
Lee	48	53	\$16,312,278.00	\$1,631	\$2,289,603		\$18,601,881.00	10,000	\$1,860	\$229
Granville	49	43	\$12,385,287.00	\$1,406	\$3,712,397		\$16,097,684.00	8,812	\$1,827	\$421
Johnston	50	49	\$53,493,000.00	\$1,511	\$11,125,495		\$64,618,495.00	35,409	\$1,825	\$314
Cherokee	51	51	\$6,062,459.00	\$1,730	\$271,318		\$6,333,777.00	3,504	\$1,808	\$78
Greene	52	55	\$2,317,000.00	\$736	\$2,104,188	\$1,238,400	\$5,659,588.00	3,149	\$1,797	\$1,061
Macon	53	46	\$7,846,962.00	\$1,788			\$7,846,962.00	4,389	\$1,788	\$0
Pitt	54	57	\$36,576,287.00	\$1,522	\$5,111,494		\$41,687,781.00	24,038	\$1,734	\$212
Onslow	55	97	\$44,783,060.00	\$1,729			\$44,783,060.00	25,895	\$1,729	\$0
Madison	56	67	\$2,495,560.00	\$1,044	\$156,730	\$1,470,000	\$4,122,290.00	2,390	\$1,725	\$681
Cabarrus	57	63	\$65,880,620.00	\$1,714	\$294,629		\$66,175,249.00	38,443	\$1,721	\$7
Jackson	58	54	\$6,731,126.00	\$1,711			\$6,731,126.00	3,933	\$1,711	\$0
Rutherford	59	75	\$13,095,375.00	\$1,418	\$2,677,870		\$15,773,245.00	9,233	\$1,708	\$290
Nash	60	61	\$22,413,096.00	\$1,371	\$5,198,198		\$27,611,294.00	16,353	\$1,688	\$317
Iredell	61	64	\$48,715,195.00	\$1,688			\$48,715,195.00	28,858	\$1,688	\$0
Henderson	62	65	\$23,525,770.00	\$1,687			\$23,525,770.00	13,943	\$1,687	\$0
Alamance	63	74	\$36,417,749.00	\$1,528	\$3,729,094		\$40,146,843.00	23,841	\$1,684	\$156
Davie	64	71	\$10,282,445.00	\$1,639	\$241,173		\$10,523,618.00	6,273	\$1,678	\$39
Caswell	65	59	\$2,700,468.00	\$936	\$594,311	\$1,498,000	\$4,792,779.00	2,884	\$1,662	\$726
Bladen	66	58	\$6,400,245.00	\$1,304	\$1,742,572		\$8,142,817.00	4,908	\$1,659	\$355
Sampson	67	73	\$12,565,770.00	\$1,100	\$6,234,036		\$18,799,806.00	11,422	\$1,646	\$546
Wilson	68	70	\$18,823,625.00	\$1,409	\$3,136,072		\$21,959,697.00	13,355	\$1,644	\$235
Caldwell	69	60	\$14,822,012.00	\$1,234	\$4,930,475		\$19,752,487.00	12,013	\$1,644	\$410
Pender	70	62	\$13,087,356.00	\$1,463	\$1,583,481		\$14,670,837.00	8,944	\$1,640	\$177
McDowell	71	52	\$8,001,390.00	\$1,288	\$2,082,282		\$10,083,672.00	6,213	\$1,623	\$335
Cleveland	72	69	\$20,902,947.00	\$1,322	\$4,139,494		\$25,042,441.00	15,814	\$1,584	\$262
Randolph	73	72	\$27,579,237.00	\$1,207	\$8,465,279		\$36,044,516.00	22,846	\$1,578	\$371
Rockingham	74	77	\$15,834,840.00	\$1,219	\$4,385,233		\$20,220,073.00	12,987	\$1,557	\$338
Cumberland	75	78	\$78,236,913.00	\$1,541			\$78,236,913.00	50,773	\$1,541	\$0
Richmond	76	81	\$7,175,000.00	\$975	\$4,111,320		\$11,286,320.00	7,360	\$1,533	\$558
Surry	77	79	\$13,777,502.00	\$1,198	\$3,825,853		\$17,603,355.00	11,502	\$1,530	\$332
Stanly	78	90	\$10,195,243.00	\$1,165	\$3,184,231		\$13,379,474.00	8,754	\$1,528	\$363
Harnett	79	76	\$21,520,012.00	\$1,046	\$9,922,509		\$31,442,521.00	20,576	\$1,528	\$482
Montgomery	80	82	\$5,078,602.00	\$1,248	\$1,140,552		\$6,219,154.00	4,070	\$1,528	\$280
Catawba	81	84	\$36,342,228.00	\$1,523			\$36,342,228.00	23,867	\$1,523	\$0
Duplin	82	80	\$9,553,920.00	\$985	\$5,112,740		\$14,666,660.00	9,703	\$1,512	\$527
Craven	83	92	\$20,542,791.00	\$1,448	\$508,104		\$21,050,895.00	14,183	\$1,484	\$36
Wilkes	84	91	\$11,436,728.00	\$1,187	\$2,830,751		\$14,267,479.00	9,638	\$1,480	\$293
Davidson	85	66	\$32,736,840.00	\$1,324	\$3,781,900		\$36,518,740.00	24,731	\$1,477	\$153
Yadkin	86	83	\$6,040,725.00	\$1,121	\$1,903,867		\$7,944,592.00	5,388	\$1,474	\$353
Burke	87	93	\$14,246,967.00	\$1,129	\$4,340,018		\$18,586,985.00	12,617	\$1,473	\$344
Edgecombe	88	89	\$6,904,530.00	\$1,000	\$3,235,016		\$10,139,546.00	6,904	\$1,469	\$469
Lenoir	89	56	\$9,900,000.00	\$1,095	\$3,291,909		\$13,191,909.00	9,044	\$1,459	\$364
Person	90	86	\$7,544,250.00	\$1,330	\$652,965		\$8,197,215.00	5,674	\$1,445	\$115
Vance	91	85	\$7,202,440.00	\$971	\$3,429,345		\$10,631,785.00	7,420	\$1,433	\$462
Gaston	92	87	\$43,816,704.00	\$1,322	\$3,299,209		\$47,115,913.00	33,134	\$1,422	\$100
Alexander	93	96	\$5,781,900.00	\$1,168	\$1,238,594		\$7,020,494.00	4,952	\$1,418	\$250
Halifax	94	88	\$8,428,823.00	\$1,091	\$2,405,963		\$10,834,786.00	7,725	\$1,403	\$312
Wayne	95	94	\$19,259,728.00	\$1,012	\$6,920,458		\$26,180,186.00	19,024	\$1,376	\$364
Lincoln	96	68	\$17,009,606.00	\$1,348	\$2,770,277		\$17,286,633.00	12,621	\$1,370	\$22
Columbus	97	95	\$7,181,259.00	\$802	\$4,817,067		\$11,998,326.00	8,957	\$1,340	\$538
Swain	98	99	\$786,541.00	\$395	\$146,316	\$1,560,000	\$2,492,857.00	1,993	\$1,251	\$856
Robeson	99	98	\$12,375,000.00	\$525	\$16,928,355		\$29,303,355.00	23,589	\$1,242	\$717
Hoke	100	100	\$4,812,418.00	\$560	\$4,145,820		\$8,958,238.00	8,600	\$1,042	\$482
State Total/Average			\$2,830,099,720	\$1,596	\$193,137,694	\$41,482,687	\$3,064,720,101	\$1,512,082	\$2,053	\$456

## TABLE 4: ABILITY TO PAY

This is a measure of a county's per student fiscal capacity to support public schools. It is a combined measure of revenue that would have been generated at the state average tax rate based on 2015-16 property valuations per student (adjusted to reflect current market prices and to account for differences in income levels) and the value of non-property tax revenues. Each county's mandated social services payments were also subtracted from total adjusted revenues. Large, urban counties combining high adjusted property valuations with broad-based economic activity and high per capita incomes tend to rank highest on this measure.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2015-16 ADJUSTED TAX BASE	2015-16 ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX REVENUE (BASED ON STATE AVG. EFFECTIVE PROPERTY TAX RATE OF 0.6540)	2015-16 NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	2015-16 MANDATED SOCIAL SERVICES PAYMENTS*	2015-16 TOTAL REVENUES LESS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS	2015 PER CAPITA INCOME**	PERCENT OF STATE AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME	2015-16 INCOME ADJUSTED TOTAL REVENUES	2015-16 FINAL ADM	2015-16 REVENUE PER ADM
Dare	1	2	\$13,654,055,530.00	\$91,345,631.50	\$25,627,095.06	\$5,183,853.50	\$11,788,873	\$48,602	119.20%	\$13,299,708	4,953	\$26,912.92
Carteret	2	1	\$14,366,573,194.00	\$96,112,374.67	\$22,562,191.60	\$5,163,079.80	\$113,511,486	\$44,199	108.20%	\$123,091,690	8,463	\$14,544.69
Watauga	3	4	\$8,884,262,849.00	\$59,435,718.46	\$16,821,394.76	\$2,284,902.86	\$73,972,210	\$33,103	81.20%	\$60,077,580	4,455	\$13,485.43
Jackson	4	3	\$8,689,673,928.00	\$58,133,918.58	\$10,782,320.05	\$2,575,981.84	\$66,340,257	\$32,202	79.00%	\$52,412,693	3,933	\$13,326.39
Brunswick	5	5	\$23,508,374,368.00	\$157,271,024.52	\$33,234,472.51	\$6,835,920.07	\$183,669,577	\$36,307	89.10%	\$163,607,825	13,371	\$12,236.02
Currituck	6	6	\$6,211,367,553.00	\$41,554,048.93	\$9,314,815.96	\$2,429,907.40	\$48,438,957	\$41,035	100.70%	\$48,766,962	3,991	\$12,219.23
Macon	7	7	\$8,006,810,394.00	\$53,565,561.54	\$10,198,070.05	\$2,085,656.47	\$67,177,975	\$34,896	85.60%	\$52,805,874	4,389	\$12,031.41
Hyde	8	9	\$1,092,299,180.00	\$7,307,481.51	\$1,449,730.52	\$730,573.52	\$8,026,639	\$33,724	82.70%	\$6,641,241	585	\$11,352.55
Avery	9	8	\$3,959,728,622.00	\$26,490,584.48	\$5,343,352.40	\$1,381,229.15	\$30,452,708	\$30,958	76.00%	\$23,129,982	2,110	\$10,962.08
Transylvania	10	11	\$5,894,964,628.00	\$39,437,313.36	\$7,703,328.73	\$2,325,464.43	\$44,815,178	\$35,487	87.10%	\$39,018,529	3,727	\$10,469.15
New Hanover	11	10	\$31,638,285,155.00	\$211,660,127.69	\$87,852,521.07	\$17,675,534.69	\$281,837,114	\$40,487	99.30%	\$279,956,310	26,789	\$10,450.42
Chatham	12	13	\$9,508,603,606.00	\$63,612,558.12	\$14,237,739.71	\$3,734,979.68	\$74,115,318	\$51,839	127.20%	\$94,262,960	9,404	\$10,023.71
Orange	13	12	\$16,700,296,598.00	\$117,249,842.24	\$41,180,532.87	\$10,559,959.32	\$142,345,558	\$55,338	135.80%	\$193,260,838	20,127	\$9,602.07
Mecklenburg	14	14	\$126,717,841,727.00	\$847,742,361.15	\$437,617,250.56	\$79,631,321.79	\$1,205,728,290	\$52,129	127.90%	\$1,542,074,389	160,979	\$9,579.35
Polk	15	17	\$2,774,224,892.00	\$18,559,564.53	\$3,734,576.56	\$1,300,283.20	\$20,993,858	\$41,477	101.80%	\$21,363,680	2,289	\$9,333.19
Buncombe	16	16	\$31,355,653,265.00	\$209,769,320.34	\$100,500,194.77	\$29,095,257.34	\$281,174,258	\$40,994	100.60%	\$282,795,395	30,598	\$9,242.28
Durham	17	15	\$31,814,961,926.00	\$212,842,095.28	\$139,641,298.72	\$27,214,799.21	\$325,268,595	\$44,507	109.20%	\$355,178,718	39,091	\$9,085.95
Wake	18	19	\$127,543,747,293.00	\$853,267,669.39	\$305,655,854.76	\$40,914,953.85	\$1,118,008,570	\$51,776	127.00%	\$1,420,201,961	166,819	\$8,545.70
Moore	19	20	\$11,933,104,925.00	\$79,832,471.95	\$26,830,276.82	\$4,236,902.00	\$102,425,447	\$43,725	107.30%	\$109,879,294	13,288	\$8,269.06
Pamlico	20	18	\$1,776,359,076.00	\$11,883,842.22	\$2,517,827.85	\$1,287,354.86	\$13,114,315	\$37,682	92.50%	\$12,124,282	1,530	\$7,924.37
Alleghany	21	22	\$1,698,819,992.00	\$11,365,105.75	\$2,101,209.80	\$803,996.21	\$12,662,319	\$32,712	80.30%	\$10,162,413	1,377	\$7,380.11
Perquimans	22	23	\$1,802,277,976.00	\$12,057,239.66	\$2,141,720.11	\$774,355.19	\$13,424,605	\$37,279	91.50%	\$12,278,413	1,700	\$7,222.60
Ashe	23	21	\$3,872,258,299.00	\$25,905,408.02	\$6,414,078.65	\$3,601,953.13	\$28,717,534	\$31,519	77.30%	\$22,207,315	3,082	\$7,205.49
Henderson	24	26	\$13,257,474,456.00	\$88,692,504.11	\$26,880,373.29	\$8,525,930.72	\$107,046,947	\$37,558	92.10%	\$98,640,036	13,943	\$7,074.52
Haywood	25	24	\$7,318,554,819.00	\$48,961,131.74	\$17,653,063.58	\$6,832,877.19	\$59,781,318	\$35,207	86.40%	\$51,638,187	7,388	\$6,989.47
Iredell	26	28	\$21,803,924,870.00	\$145,868,257.39	\$48,715,007.64	\$10,453,741.91	\$184,129,523	\$44,442	109.00%	\$200,767,543	28,588	\$6,957.08
Yancey	27	27	\$2,592,958,148.00	\$17,346,890.01	\$3,566,232.77	\$1,749,614.34	\$19,163,508	\$31,481	77.20%	\$14,801,305	2,204	\$6,715.66
Clay	28	25	\$1,599,900,993.00	\$10,703,337.64	\$2,035,223.48	\$1,195,003.11	\$11,543,558	\$30,242	74.20%	\$8,564,986	1,323	\$6,473.91
Guilford	29	29	\$48,450,769,224.00	\$324,135,646.11	\$146,697,373.11	\$29,962,109.28	\$440,871,224	\$41,691	102.30%	\$450,952,236	76,736	\$5,876.67
Forsyth	30	30	\$33,072,760,622.00	\$221,256,768.56	\$106,987,435.12	\$19,700,601.97	\$308,543,602	\$43,859	107.60%	\$332,010,447	56,663	\$5,859.39
Warren	31	34	\$2,382,278,968.00	\$15,937,446.30	\$6,355,427.17	\$1,990,592.75	\$20,302,281	\$28,220	69.20%	\$14,056,536	2,400	\$5,856.89
Catawba	32	38	\$16,136,569,348.00	\$107,953,648.94	\$49,872,840.87	\$18,514,948.85	\$139,311,541	\$40,265	98.80%	\$137,623,082	23,867	\$5,766.25
Craven	33	35	\$4,269,861,361.00	\$28,565,372.51	\$8,440,465.08	\$2,219,540.16	\$34,786,297	\$42,136	103.70%	\$35,961,516	6,273	\$5,732.75
Beaufort	34	36	\$9,137,932,858.00	\$61,132,770.82	\$23,773,625.49	\$6,768,245.95	\$78,138,150	\$40,555	99.50%	\$77,747,067	7,183	\$5,481.71
Graham	35	32	\$5,286,005,933.00	\$35,363,379.69	\$11,512,175.70	\$4,637,573.09	\$47,237,982	\$37,773	92.70%	\$39,143,632	14,711	\$5,458.60
Graham	36	33	\$1,126,905,526.00	\$7,538,997.97	\$1,663,251.99	\$592,694.52	\$8,609,555	\$29,833	73.20%	\$6,301,648	1,156	\$5,451.25
Onslow	37	31	\$13,493,580,965.00	\$90,272,056.66	\$49,513,271.04	\$10,965,512.72	\$128,819,815	\$43,952	107.80%	\$138,911,369	25,895	\$5,364.41
Lincoln	38	42	\$8,701,287,631.00	\$58,211,614.25	\$17,490,940.77	\$4,629,233.70	\$71,073,321	\$38,774	95.10%	\$67,611,987	12,621	\$5,357.10
Madison	39	39	\$2,324,672,591.00	\$15,552,059.63	\$3,544,163.45	\$1,827,556.67	\$17,268,666	\$29,965	73.50%	\$12,695,493	2,390	\$5,311.92
Jones	40	37	\$843,707,241.00	\$5,644,401.44	\$1,641,505.15	\$905,546.69	\$6,080,366	\$36,906	90.50%	\$5,505,576	1,081	\$5,093.04
Cherokee	41	40	\$2,970,590,785.00	\$19,873,252.35	\$6,940,889.64	\$2,091,615.12	\$24,722,527	\$29,358	72.00%	\$17,807,207	3,504	\$5,081.97
Person	42	41	\$4,335,623,241.00	\$29,005,319.48	\$8,394,020.09	\$3,887,879.88	\$33,511,460	\$34,557	84.80%	\$28,412,265	5,674	\$5,007.45
Swain	43	44	\$1,526,557,042.00	\$10,212,666.60	\$3,636,832.57	\$1,212,846.69	\$12,636,652	\$31,971	78.40%	\$9,912,079	1,993	\$4,973.45
Cabarrus	44	43	\$20,845,028,722.00	\$139,453,242.15	\$66,669,155.63	\$11,224,332.78	\$194,896,665	\$39,640	97.30%	\$189,547,322	38,443	\$4,930.61
Mitchell	45	45	\$1,734,090,009.00	\$11,601,062.16	\$3,578,526.85	\$3,257,427.55	\$11,922,161	\$30,970	76.00%	\$9,058,842	1,885	\$4,805.75
Montgomery	46	47	\$2,970,546,045.00	\$19,872,953.04	\$5,643,473.39	\$1,806,868.15	\$23,709,558	\$33,198	81.40%	\$19,311,316	4,070	\$4,744.80
Chowan	47	46	\$1,428,647,858.00	\$9,557,654.17	\$3,077,097.36	\$1,161,836.08	\$11,472,915	\$34,956	85.80%	\$9,839,477	2,077	\$4,737.35
Union	48	50	\$23,685,356,121.00	\$158,455,032.45	\$45,695,421.27	\$11,136,124.60	\$193,014,329	\$43,669	107.10%	\$206,794,640	43,894	\$4,711.23
Camden	49	55	\$1,071,693,855.00	\$7,169,631.89	\$1,728,846.81	\$548,064.94	\$8,350,414	\$41,351	101.50%	\$8,471,699	1,801	\$4,703.89
Pender	50	52	\$6,577,887,266.00	\$44,006,065.81	\$11,459,512.32	\$4,641,955.88	\$50,823,622	\$32,937	80.80%	\$41,070,135	8,944	\$4,591.92
Pitt	51	54	\$12,035,973,100.00	\$49,718,702.56	\$18,718,702.56	\$11,528,565.23	\$118,710,797	\$37,042	90.90%	\$107,885,016	24,038	\$4,488.10
Alamance	52	51	\$12,184,339,637.00	\$81,513,232.17	\$49,086,855.02	\$9,022,589.58	\$121,577,948	\$35,839	87.90%	\$106,901,934	23,841	\$4,483.95
Rowan	53	59	\$11,727,711,194.00	\$78,458,387.89	\$32,423,048.86	\$7,486,449.30	\$103,394,987	\$34,348	84.30%	\$87,917,947	19,731	\$4,415.99
Northampton	54	49	\$1,938,201,463.00	\$12,966,567.79	\$2,986,998.02	\$2,492,512.82	\$13,461,053	\$30,971	76.00%	\$10,228,472	2,323	\$4,403.13
Lee	55	56	\$5,120,215,881.00	\$34,254,244.24	\$17,243,090.25	\$3,732,426.27	\$47,764,908	\$35,655	87.50%	\$41,783,601	10,000	\$4,178.36
Davidson	56	53	\$13,620,526,962.00	\$91,121,325.38	\$34,657,818.16	\$7,595,014.92	\$118,184,129	\$35,073	86.00%	\$101,697,096	24,731	\$4,112.13
Pasquotank	57	57	\$2,936,763,842.00	\$19,646,950.10	\$10,874,506.48	\$3,413,530.61	\$27,107,926	\$35,550	87.20%	\$23,643,533	5,817	\$4,064.56
Surry	58	61	\$5,544,267,321.00	\$37,091,148.38	\$21,416,185.48	\$4,052,826.45	\$54,454,507	\$34,628	85.00%	\$46,263,419	11,502	\$4,022.21
Rutherford	59	62	\$6,294,931,141.00	\$42,113,089.33	\$14,268,461.54	\$4,518,001.25	\$51,863,550	\$29,142	71.50%	\$37,081,566	9,233	\$4,016.20
Stanly	60	60	\$4,641,237,807.00	\$31,049,880.93	\$14,082,044.06	\$3,067,797.38	\$42,064,128	\$34,063	83.60%	\$35,153,718	7,254	\$4,015.73
Wilkes	61	63	\$5,616,466,661.00	\$37,574,161.96	\$15,752,004.85	\$5,371,531.41	\$47,954,635	\$32,449	79.60%	\$38,177,580	9,638	\$3,961.15
Tyrrell	62	48	\$409,170,055.00	\$2,737,347.67	\$784,555.76	\$433,545.35	\$3,088,358	\$30,514	74.90%	\$2,312,082	564	\$3,959.04
Wilson	63	65	\$6,500,702,864.00	\$43,489,702.16	\$21,855,032.42	\$8,327,071.88	\$57,017,663	\$37,617	92.30%	\$52,622,327	13,355	\$3,940.27
Cumberland	64	64	\$22,271,791,795.00	\$148,998,287.11	\$94,850,938.66	\$28,068,305.45	\$215,780,290	\$37,611	92.30%	\$199,115,194	50,773	\$3,921.67
Nash	65	67	\$7,165,697,664.00	\$47,938,517.37	\$24,698,675.55	\$5,943,010.18	\$66,694,183	\$38,982	95.60%	\$63,786,468	16,353	\$3,900.60
Rockingham	66	66	\$6,963,024,697.00	\$46,582,635.22	\$18,847,155.65	\$5,686,143.65	\$59,743,647	\$33,916	83.20%	\$49,713,328	12,987	\$3,827.93
Stokes	67	69	\$3,731,728,219.00	\$24,965,261.79	\$7,221,111.67	\$2,594,894.51	\$29,591,479	\$32,811	80.50%	\$23,821,144	6,251	\$3,810.77
Gaston	68	70	\$15,382,809,363.00	\$102,910,994.64	\$49,541,489.84	\$17,196,964.25	\$135,255,519	\$36,950	90.70%	\$122,615,654	33	

**TABLE 5: RELATIVE EFFORT**

This is a measure comparing Actual Effort (from Table 2) and Ability to Pay (from Table 4). Actual effort includes county appropriations for current expenses, and, when appropriate, supplemental tax levies for schools. Low-wealth counties with comparatively high spending levels have tended to rank highest on this measure.

COUNTY	RELATIVE EFFORT RANK: CURRENT SPENDING	ABILITY RANK	REVENUE PER ADM	EFFORT RANK	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM	EFFORT AS PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE PER STUDENT: CURRENT SPENDING
Scotland	1	97	\$2,427.36	23	\$1,856	76.50%
Gates	2	87	\$3,162.56	26	\$1,824	57.70%
Orange	3	13	\$9,602.07	1	\$4,852	50.50%
Franklin	4	84	\$3,197.35	42	\$1,553	48.60%
Johnston	5	85	\$3,187.37	48	\$1,511	47.40%
Hertford	6	82	\$3,277.86	50	\$1,475	45.00%
Granville	7	89	\$3,132.72	55	\$1,406	44.90%
Stokes	8	67	\$3,810.77	38	\$1,643	43.10%
Union	9	48	\$4,711.23	19	\$2,001	42.50%
Harnett	10	96	\$2,541.15	84	\$1,046	41.20%
Guilford	11	29	\$5,876.67	11	\$2,389	40.70%
Sampson	12	93	\$2,743.54	81	\$1,100	40.10%
Cumberland	13	64	\$3,921.67	43	\$1,541	39.30%
Pasquotank	14	57	\$4,064.56	41	\$1,590	39.10%
Lee	15	55	\$4,178.36	40	\$1,631	39.00%
Cleveland	16	77	\$3,446.79	64	\$1,322	38.40%
Martin	17	70	\$3,617.27	58	\$1,380	38.20%
Vance	18	95	\$2,548.72	91	\$971	38.10%
Rowan	19	53	\$4,415.99	36	\$1,675	37.90%
Bladen	20	76	\$3,453.60	65	\$1,304	37.80%
Bertie	21	86	\$3,176.13	74	\$1,190	37.50%
Anson	22	80	\$3,362.15	67	\$1,258	37.40%
Greene	23	99	\$2,031.92	96	\$736	36.20%
Wilson	24	63	\$3,940.27	54	\$1,409	35.80%
Gaston	25	68	\$3,700.60	63	\$1,322	35.70%
Chowan	26	47	\$4,737.35	35	\$1,680	35.50%
Rutherford	27	59	\$4,016.20	53	\$1,418	35.30%
Warren	28	31	\$5,856.89	17	\$2,061	35.20%
Nash	29	65	\$3,900.60	59	\$1,371	35.10%
McDowell	30	69	\$3,670.88	66	\$1,288	35.10%
Northampton	31	54	\$4,403.13	44	\$1,539	35.00%
Caldwell	32	73	\$3,548.59	69	\$1,234	34.80%
Cabarrus	33	44	\$4,930.61	31	\$1,714	34.80%
Durham	34	17	\$9,085.95	3	\$3,147	34.60%
Randolph	35	74	\$3,496.77	71	\$1,207	34.50%
Alexander	36	79	\$3,408.65	76	\$1,168	34.30%
Alamance	37	52	\$4,483.95	45	\$1,528	34.10%
Cherokee	38	41	\$5,081.97	29	\$1,730	34.00%
Halifax	39	83	\$3,209.58	83	\$1,091	34.00%
Pitt	40	51	\$4,488.10	47	\$1,522	33.90%
Beaufort	41	35	\$5,458.60	25	\$1,845	33.80%
Duplin	42	91	\$2,955.36	89	\$985	33.30%
Forsyth	43	30	\$5,859.39	20	\$1,948	33.20%
Richmond	44	92	\$2,933.73	90	\$975	33.20%
Burke	45	78	\$3,436.26	79	\$1,129	32.90%
Robeson	46	100	\$1,609.95	99	\$525	32.60%
Jones	47	40	\$5,093.04	37	\$1,660	32.60%
Edgecombe	48	90	\$3,078.67	87	\$1,000	32.50%
Onslow	49	37	\$5,364.41	30	\$1,729	32.20%
Davidson	50	56	\$4,112.13	62	\$1,324	32.20%
Pender	51	50	\$4,591.92	51	\$1,463	31.90%
Rockingham	52	66	\$3,827.93	70	\$1,219	31.80%
Yadkin	53	72	\$3,587.27	80	\$1,121	31.20%
Columbus	54	94	\$2,613.63	95	\$802	30.70%
Lenoir	55	71	\$3,615.79	82	\$1,095	30.30%
Washington	56	81	\$3,299.79	88	\$990	30.00%
Wilkes	57	61	\$3,961.15	75	\$1,187	30.00%
Chatham	58	12	\$10,023.71	5	\$2,991	29.80%
Surry	59	58	\$4,022.21	73	\$1,198	29.80%
Caswell	60	88	\$3,148.74	92	\$936	29.70%
Stanly	61	60	\$4,015.73	77	\$1,165	29.00%
Wayne	62	75	\$3,494.96	86	\$1,012	29.00%
Transylvania	63	10	\$10,469.15	4	\$2,995	28.60%
Davie	64	33	\$5,732.75	39	\$1,639	28.60%
Haywood	65	25	\$6,989.47	21	\$1,927	27.60%
Wake	66	18	\$8,545.70	14	\$2,316	27.10%
Person	67	42	\$5,007.45	61	\$1,330	26.60%
Craven	68	34	\$5,481.71	52	\$1,448	26.40%
Catawba	69	32	\$5,766.25	46	\$1,523	26.40%
Montgomery	70	46	\$4,744.80	68	\$1,248	26.30%
Mecklenburg	71	14	\$9,579.35	9	\$2,497	26.10%
New Hanover	72	11	\$10,450.42	7	\$2,636	25.20%
Lincoln	73	38	\$5,357.10	60	\$1,348	25.20%
Alleghany	74	21	\$7,380.11	24	\$1,852	25.10%
Mitchell	75	45	\$4,805.75	72	\$1,199	24.90%
Hoke	76	98	\$2,248.53	98	\$560	24.90%
Buncombe	77	16	\$9,242.28	15	\$2,295	24.80%
Camden	78	49	\$4,703.89	78	\$1,151	24.50%
Iredell	79	26	\$6,957.08	33	\$1,688	24.30%
Henderson	80	24	\$7,074.52	34	\$1,687	23.80%
Polk	81	15	\$9,333.19	16	\$2,200	23.60%
Tyrrell	82	62	\$3,959.04	93	\$921	23.30%
Moore	83	19	\$8,269.06	22	\$1,899	23.00%
Pamlico	84	20	\$7,924.37	27	\$1,819	23.00%
Hyde	85	8	\$11,352.55	8	\$2,513	22.10%
Watauga	86	3	\$13,485.43	6	\$2,819	20.90%
Ashe	87	23	\$7,205.49	49	\$1,506	20.90%
Yancey	88	27	\$6,715.66	56	\$1,403	20.90%
Madison	89	39	\$5,311.92	85	\$1,044	19.70%
Currituck	90	6	\$12,219.23	12	\$2,381	19.50%
Perquimans	91	22	\$7,222.60	57	\$1,397	19.30%
Brunswick	92	5	\$12,236.02	13	\$2,339	19.10%
Avery	93	9	\$10,962.08	18	\$2,056	18.80%
Carteret	94	2	\$14,544.69	10	\$2,405	16.50%
Dare	95	1	\$26,912.92	2	\$4,172	15.50%
Macon	96	7	\$12,031.41	28	\$1,788	14.90%
Clay	97	28	\$6,473.91	94	\$913	14.10%
Jackson	98	4	\$13,326.39	32	\$1,711	12.80%
Graham	99	36	\$5,451.25	97	\$632	11.60%
Swain	100	43	\$4,973.45	100	\$395	7.90%
State Total/Average			\$5.724		\$1,596	31%

## > GLOSSARY

**Ability to Pay:** A measure of a county's per student fiscal capacity to support local public schools. It is a combined measure of revenue that would have been generated at the state average tax rate based on 2015-16 property valuations per student (adjusted to reflect current market prices and to account for differences in income levels) and the value of non-property tax revenues, such as the county's share of local option sales tax, local tax aid (including reimbursements for inventory tax revenues, homestead exclusions, food stamp distribution, and the intangibles tax), and fines and forfeitures. Each county's mandated social service payments were subtracted from the total adjusted revenues. (See Table 4.)

**Actual Effort:** Includes 2015-16 current expenses (including supplemental school taxes); reflects the actual dollar effort of counties to fund local public schools without taking into account property wealth. (See Tables 2 and 3.)

**Adjusted Tax Base:** The total valuation of real, tangible, and public utility property for a county, adjusted using a three-year weighted average of the sales assessment ratio. Notes about adjustment and weighted average: In North Carolina, residential and commercial property typically is revalued once every eight years. The longer it has been since properties in a county have been revalued, the more likely it is that the market value of property exceeds the assessed valuation. To help remedy this difficulty of estimating the market value of property valuations, the Department of Revenue computes an adjusted property tax rate for each county by using the ratio of assessed property value to market value. Typically, the longer the gap between revaluations, the larger the difference between market and assessed value. In effort to be as accurate as possible, this study uses a three-year weighted average to calculate the adjusted property valuation.

**Average Daily Membership (ADM):** The sum of the number of days in membership for all students in each county's local public schools, divided by the number of school days in the term. City school districts are combined with the county system and charter school enrollment is included (see Charter School Enrollment under "Notes on Methodology").

**Capital Outlay:** A six-year average of public school capital outlay using proceeds from local option sales taxes and other sources to fund actual spending on capital projects or equipment for buildings. Withdrawals from the Public School Building Capital Fund, Grants from the Public School Building Bond Fund, and the North Carolina Education Lottery Funds have been removed from the county total.

**Capital Outlay per ADM:** Six-year average of capital outlay spending for a county divided by the ADM for the county.

**Current Spending:** The most recent current expense appropriation by the county to the public schools, as reported in the audited financial statement of the local board(s) of education.

**Current Spending per ADM:** The total amount of spending for a county divided by the ADM for the county.

**Debt Service:** A six-year average of public school debt service outlay using proceeds from local option sales taxes and other sources to fund school bond repayments and lease purchase

agreements. Using the Public School Capital Outlay report, withdrawals from the Public School Building Capital Fund and North Carolina Education Lottery Funds have been removed from the county total.

**Debt Service per ADM:** Six-year average of debt service spending for a county divided by the ADM for the county.

**Income-Adjusted Total Revenues:** The total revenues for a county, minus the amount paid in mandated social security payments, multiplied by the percent of state average per capita income.

**Low-Wealth Funding:** Supplemental state funding intended to enhance instructional programs in counties designated as low-wealth based on a formula that examines the ability to generate revenue per student below the state average. In addition, the formula takes into account county adjusted property tax base, square miles in the county and per capita income.

**Mandated Social Services Payments:** The amount of money each county pays in the health and human services categories mandated by the state. These categories include public assistance and Work First services. In previous studies, the Mandated Social Services Payments reported in Table 4 included county Medicaid payments in addition to other required social services payments. For the last three years the Local School Finance Study has not included Medicaid payments as part of the overall Mandated Social Services Payments. The WD667 report from the NC Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Controller, which includes county Medicaid payments, has not been available since 2012-13. In almost every county, the Medicaid total from the WD667 in previous years was less than 0.5% of the total Mandated Social Services Payments, which itself is a small piece of the revenue calculation in Table 4.

**Non-Property Tax Revenue:** Sources of revenue for the county other than property taxes. Examples include the sales tax, fines/forfeitures, and local tax aid.

**Relative Effort:** A measure comparing the Actual Effort of a county to its Ability to Pay. In general, low-wealth districts with comparatively high spending levels rank highest in this measure. (See Table 5)

**Small County Funding:** In 2015-16 supplemental state funding was provided to county school districts with ADM less than 3,200. This is a change from previous years, when funding was provided to two categories of local education agencies: those with less than 3,239 ADM, and those with 3,239 - 4,080 ADM who have an adjusted property tax base less than the state average.

**State Average Effective Property Tax:** The average of all 100 counties' adjusted tax rates.

**Supplemental School Taxes:** According to GS 115C-501(a), "a special tax to supplement the funds from State and county allotments and thereby operate schools of a higher standard by supplementing any item of expenditure in the school budget."

**Total Current Spending per ADM:** The sum of the current expense and the supplemental school taxes for a county, divided by the county's ADM.

## > DATA SOURCES

The 2018 Local School Finance Study examines data from the 2015-16 school year. Every effort has been made to verify that the data included in this year's study is accurate and reflects what it intends to measure.

The primary source of financial information is the Division of School Business at the Department of Public Instruction, which provided data on non-property tax revenue, low-wealth and small county supplemental funding information, final average daily membership (except as noted above for charter school enrollments), effective county tax rate, adjusted revenue tax base, current expense, and other data found in the Division's *Highlights of the NC Public School Budget* and online *Statistical Profile*.

Other sources include the North Carolina Department of Revenue's *County Property Tax Rates and Revaluation Schedules* and *Sales Assessment Ratio Studies*, which provided the 2015-16 property tax valuations and tax rates; the Department of Revenue's data on Local Government Sales and Use Tax Distribution; and the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer's *Report on County Spending on Public School Capital Outlays*. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services provided data for the mandated social services expenditures, and the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts provided data on fines and forfeitures. Per capita income was obtained through the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis.

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The 2018 Local School Finance Study and prior years' versions are available online at <http://www.ncforum.org>. Contact the Forum to inquire about pricing information for hard copies of the study.



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